

Faith, Hope & Love

Description

1 Thessalonians 1 [RG AUDIO 091012](#)

Paul begins his letter to the church at Thessalonica by praising the people for their work produced by faith, labor prompted by love, and endurance inspired by hope (v. 3). The theme of faith, hope, and love are mentioned together throughout the New Testament (e.g., 1 Cor. 13:13; Eph. 4:2-5; 1 Peter 1:21-22). It is clear they are foundational to the Christian life.

Although we are saved by faith alone, our faith produces action. This action is the "work" of building God's kingdom. The building, or "labor," is prompted by love. Because of God's love, we are motivated to love and serve others. The perseverance to live and love for Christ is inspired by the hope we have in him. In light of this hope, we have the commitment to endure to the end, knowing that God is in control and we will someday live with him for eternity.

The people in the church at Thessalonica had endured persecution and remained faithful to Christ—just like Paul. They had imitated the life of Christ—just like Paul. This imitation was characterized by faith, hope, and love. Today, may our lives reflect these same traits.

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