

More & More!

Through & Through!

World Outreach Church
Sermon Discussion Guide
Sunday Sermon: **June 16, 2024**



Faith, hope, and love are the attitudes God wants to create within us. Faith is the ability to maintain an optimistic, cheerful attitude based upon the promises God gives us in His Word. It's being able to maintain a positive spirit in the middle of any circumstance because of who God is and what He says He will do. Love causes us to be more concerned about other people and their needs, putting them ahead of our own. Hope is the spirit of optimism we have based upon the future God has planned for us, which He tells us about throughout the Bible. These are the qualities the Church in the earth ought to cultivate. Do you have faith, hope, and love developing within you? Is the Word of God working within you, showing you new things? If so, then you're standing firm in the Lord and seeking to please Him. Now, let's do it more and more.

OPENING: The theme of 1 Thessalonians: You're doing better than you know. Now, continue what you're doing, more and more.

I. YOU'RE DOING BETTER THAN YOU KNOW (1 THESSALONIANS 1-3)

A. You Have Faith, Hope, and Love (1 Thessalonians 1)

1 Thessalonians 1:1-3,⁵ ¹ Paul, Silas and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you. ² We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. ³ We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵ Our Gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit, and with deep conviction.

***How is the biblical meaning of "hope" different than how the secular world uses that word?**

B. The Word of God is At Work Within You! (1 Thessalonians 2)

1 Thessalonians 2:1,13 ¹ You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not without results...

¹³ And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.

***What is something new God has shown you recently, as you read His Word?**

C. You Are Standing Firm in the Lord (1 Thessalonians 3)

1 Thessalonians 3:1-9,11-13 ¹ So when we could stand it no longer, we thought it best to be left by ourselves in Athens. ² We sent Timothy, who is our brother and co-worker in God's service in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, ³ so that no one would be unsettled by these trials. For you know quite well that we are destined for them. ⁴ In fact, when we were with you, we kept telling you that we would be persecuted. And it turned out that way, as you well know.

⁵ For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter had tempted you and that our labors might have been in vain. ⁶ But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love. He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you. ⁷ Therefore, brothers and sisters, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith. ⁸ For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord. ⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you?

¹¹ Now may our God and Father Himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you.

¹² May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.

¹³ May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all His holy ones.

***During difficult times, we need God to pour courage into us, and this often comes through His people. How have you experienced this in your own walk with the Lord?**

II. NOW DO SO MORE AND MORE! (1 THESSALONIANS 4-5)

A. More and More Pleasing God (1 Thessalonians 4:1-8)

1 Thessalonians 4:1 *As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this **more and more**.*

B. More and More Love for God's Family (1 Thessalonians 4:9-12)

1 Thessalonians 4:9 ⁹ *Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. And in fact, you do love all of God's family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so **more and more**.*

***How does God cause our love to increase "more and more" for people?**

C. More and More Awareness of His Return (1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11)

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18, 5:1-5, 11 ¹⁵ *According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.*

¹ *Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, ² for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴ But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. ⁵ You are all children of the light and children of the day.*

¹¹ *Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.*

***What can you do, personally, to live in a state of faithful readiness for Christ's return?**

D. More and More Joy, Prayer, and Thanksgiving (1 Thessalonians 5:12-22)

1 Thessalonians 5:16-22 ¹⁶ *Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹ but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²² reject every kind of evil.*

***What does "give thanks in all circumstances" look like in your life today?**

Conclusion (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24)

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

²³ *May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.*

***To sanctify us is to separate us for God's purposes. As a follower of Jesus Christ, what is your role in the sanctification process?**

PRAYER

Dear Lord, we call You our Heavenly Father. Jesus taught us to pray to You in that way: Our Father, who lives in Heaven, but who also dwells with us here. How awesome is Your Name, Lord. May we grow in Jesus Christ and our ability to encourage other people and build each other up. Lord, help us to urge them to live lives that are worthy of You and of the Kingdom to which You have called us. Let the Holy Spirit come and take control, so we rejoice always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances. Help us as we seek more and more of You. In Jesus' name. Amen.