

Blessings... I pray this message will find you in a place that your heart is tender and eager to be fed and encouraged. I love God's word... I need God's word. I want to be saturated with it that I may know Him more intimately, help equip those who also know Him and point those who don't know Him in His direction. In our *#nestingwithjesus* we have plunged into the warm waters of Thessalonians. Paul, right off the bat, as he usually does in his intros, qualifies his

audience to the called out assembly (church) in Thessalonica by emphasizing that he's writing to those who have both... the Father and His Son. That's significant because many would claim to know God but ignored or wanted nothing to do with Jesus and that's impossible to do. He wanted to make sure everyone knew who he was addressing in his letter. He who has the Son also has the Father. And it's impossible to have a relationship and

access with the Father without Jesus.

And another pattern we find in Paul's letters is his gratitude toward the Godhead. He never thanks men for these three things... faith, love and hope. When the Bible give thanks for these three things it's always pointing heavenward to their origin. Why is that? Because all three are gifts that are ushered in when His grace invades our lives. So, it's only appropriate to thank God for these three

essential blessings of His unequalled grace and relentless mercy.

Paul gave thanks for two reasons:

**1. He remembered the results of grace.**

The three (3) things he remembered were:

**1. What they were doing. (They worked with faith).**

Their work was rooted in and the result of God's word. It was

based on the word of God and reflected His will.

## **2. How they were doing it. (They labored with love).**

Their labor was motivated by the love of Christ, and it compelled them to love Him and His people and to proclaim His message to a lost world.

## **3. Why they kept doing it. (They hoped with perseverance).**

Their steadfast and unwavering perseverance validated and proved an unashamed hope within them that had been purposely and practically built by God and it wasn't something they had borrowed from man. **(Romans 5:1-5)**

And this hope, love and faith were the direct results of God working in and through them and he couldn't help but give thanks to Him who gave it—GOD. Paul understood this

when He said...

*"But by the grace of God I am what I am: and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I LABORED more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me." (1 Corinthians 15:10)*

May we give credit to whom credit is due... the type of faith, love and hope that Paul consistently spoke of are all gifts from above. They come from the

Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning— He's constant and faithful. Blessings to each you... and may you have a day filled with faith, love and hope. And the greatest of these is love...

2. He knew that God had chosen the redeemed in Thessalonica by the power He demonstrated to save and sanctify them.

Paul, under the inspiration and influence of the Holy Spirit, assured the disciples at Thessalonica that he KNEW and could SEE that God had chosen them (1:4-10) because of three distinct dynamics that he reveals in chapter one and two:

His words... not mine:

"For this cause also WE THANK GOD without ceasing, BECAUSE, when you received the word of God, which you heard of us, YOU RECEIVED IT not

as the word of men, but  
as it is in truth, the word of  
God, which effectually  
works also in you that  
believe" (1 Thes. 2:13)

Paul is saying, this a God  
thing... what is impossible  
with man, is possible with  
God.

*Validation of God's work  
#1*

**1. How the Word of God  
was Revealed**

(How was God's message revealed to them. The message and the messengers were anointed by God to make His good news of their salvation, in Christ, both clear and bright. The veil, that once covered their eyes, and had them in complete darkness to the gospel, was supernaturally penetrated by the light of the spoken Word of God.) 1 Thes. 1:5 says, "For our gospel came not unto you by 1. declaration only (word ONLY), but also in 2. enabling grace (power), and 3. by the Presence of

God, Himself, (the Holy Ghost, Titus 3:3-7), and 4. by our great expectations and confidence in God's redeeming work, through the gospel of His grace (much assurance); as you know (we lived what we declared) what manner of men we were among you for your sake.

*Validation of God's work  
#2*

**2. How the Word of God  
was Received**

They embraced the Word of God, as it is in truth, a word from God and not the words of men. They supernaturally, without restrictions, welcomed the message of Christ Jesus and the cross He died on, as God's only answer and hope and way to live.

They opened their heart to the Man and His message and allowed it to strip every prideful rebuttal away from them.

They divinely received the truth about their rebellion and hostility toward living a life that glorifies God.

God gave them light to

understood they had been living to serve themselves. And, by the grace of God, the penetrating light of the gospel manifested the love and kindness of God in Christ Jesus, in spite of who they were and had been. They received the life changing truth that their lives were no longer their own, they had been bought by the blood of Jesus, and they were compelled by the love of God to live for Jesus. Titus 3:1-7) 1 Thes. 2:13 "For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when you

received the word of God which you heard of us, you received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectually works in you that believe."

*Validation of God's work  
#3*

### **3. How the Word of God was Redeeming**

The redeeming and far reaching work of the gospel... I love simple

and clear principles...  
that significantly speak  
life and grace into our  
lives from day to day.  
The letter to the  
Thessalonians is such a  
great and gracious  
word that ushers in a  
tremendous amount of  
clarity on how the word  
of God's grace is  
revealed, received and  
redeems those who  
see, agree and act in  
faith on what He  
reveals.

*"...how you turned TO  
God, from idols, TO  
serve the living and  
true God. And TO wait*

*for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, namely Jesus, who delivered us from the wrath to come" (1 Thessalonians 1:9-10).*

The Word of grace and truth took root and took over the lives of the believers. They turned in faith to the Father and turned from serving themselves and the useless things of this world to serve the living and true God by faith. They became followers of the disciples and

examples for other believers. Complete and utter transformation of nature and living. They had been interrupted by Jesus and invaded by His redeeming grace and they would never be the same. They were now living life in the light of the promised return of Jesus. Not perfectly, but purposely and with passion. The eternal grace of God had so transformed how they lived, loved and looked at life and even more so the return of Jesus. They were

living and looking for Jesus to come, as they served and preached the gospel to a lost and dying world (Titus 2:11-14).

Grace upon grace...

#nestingwithjesus

#1thessalonians

#1thessalonians1

#1thessalonians2

#Jesus

#ourperfectreasonforev  
eryseason #glory

#flawedforgivenfree

#itiswell

#luke1and74thru75

#deliveredfromsomethi

ng

#deliveredtosomething

#givingthanks

#faithlovehopegrace

#thosewhobelieve

#thesyllabusofgrace

#linkinprofile

#pastornickholden

#pastornickholdenonse

rmonaudio

#pastornickholdenpod

cast #podcast

#sermonaudio

#readingswithpastornic

k

#1thessalonians3

#faith #love #hope

#giftsofgrace

#laboroflove

#workoffaith

#patienceofhope

#1thessalonians3