



THE LITTLE “CHURCH” THAT THOUGHT IT COULD | THESSALONIANS CHPT. 1
LESSON 1 FAITH-LOVE-HOPE Terri McFaddin-Solomon, M.A.

THE CHURCH AT THESSALONICA WAS A MIRACLE CHURCH. In Acts 17:1-9, Paul and Silas were only in the city of Thessalonica for 3-weeks before they were forced to leave by a group of opposing Jews. Paul organized the new church with the help of a group of influential Gentile women and a young man named Jason. The Jews quickly attacked Paul and the church and arrested Jason. Paul probably thought the new church would be destroyed, but he soon heard from Timothy that the church withstood the persecution and was growing strong in the Lord. Paul writes 2 letters to the Thessalonians to applaud them; encourage them; and instruct them in the faith.

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, remembering without ceasing your **work of faith, labor or love**, and **patience of hope** in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father.

The opponents of the church would soon learn the impact and power of three building blocks: **Work of Faith, Labor of Love** and **Patience of Hope**.

CHALLENGES & PERSECUTION

ABOVE

3 STEPS TO RISING

WORK OF FAITH:

Actions that are taken by putting one’s beliefs into practice. *We are not saved by works, but we are saved to work.*

2 Thess. 1:11 – Work of faith with power.

James 2:17-18 – Faith without works is dead.

Eph. 4:11-12 – Equipped for works of service.

Matthew 25:34-36 – Rewarded for good works.

LABOR OF LOVE:

Placing the needs of others above our own needs even when it calls for sacrifice and suffering.

1 Thess. 3:6 – Known for your faith and love.

1 Thess. 5:8 – Put on the breastplate of faith and love.

1 Thess. 5:13 – Love for the works sake.

Romans 16:3-4 – Persecuted for love.

1 Corn. 13:4-7 – Love has the power to suffer and endure.

1 Corn. 13:13 – Love is the greatest.

PATIENCE OF HOPE:

Patience: The ability to endure without anger or giving up.
 Hope: A strong and confident expectation grounded in faith and love.

2 Thess. 1:4 – We boast about your patience.

Romans 5:3-4 – Tribulation works patience and patience hope.

James 1:3-4 – Testing of you faith produces patience.

1 Thess. 5:8 – As a helmet of hope of salvation.

Romans 4:18 – Keep hoping when there is no evidence of hope.

Galatians 6:9 – Reward of patience and hope.

How can you apply the Work of Faith, the Labor of Love and the Patience of Hope to your personal life?