

Friday

Please read 1 Thessalonians 1:3b, 7–10 & 3:7–9. What key words do you see in these verses that inspired the Thessalonians' vision of the finish line?

How does having a vision of the finish line impact your faith? How does it impact your daily life?

Thank God today that you have a hope and a future. Ask God to increase your vision of the finish and to allow that to impact your daily life. Pray that God will continue to grow your faith in Him and that your life will be beacon of God's grace and hope.

Saturday

Please read Galatians 5:5–6, Colossians 1:4–5 and 1 Peter 1:21–22. How do these verses fit with what we've been reading all week? As you pray today, please pray for the services this weekend. Please pray that our church will be a "model to all believers" when it comes to faith.



WEEK 1

Trust is Something You Build

APRIL 30 & MAY 1, 2011 • MARK SPURLOCK

Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash. *Matthew 7:24–27*

One thing I can trust for sure: _____

Trusting God 101: The Case of the Thessalonian Christians

We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. 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. *1 Thessalonians 1:2–3*

The three most important things to have are **faith**, **hope** and **love**.

1 Corinthians 13:13a NIRV (See also: Galatians 5:5–6; Colossians 1:4–5; Hebrews 6:10–12, 10:22–24; 1 Peter 1:21–22)

3 Foundational Questions

1. _____ ?

For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. *1 Thessalonians 1:4–5a*

... 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. *1 Thessalonians 2:13*



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2. _____ ?

You know how we lived among you for your sake. You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. *1 Thessalonians 1:5b–6*

...so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. *1 Thessalonians 2:8*

3. _____ ?

...your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. *1 Thessalonians 1:3b*

And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. The Lord’s message rang out from you... your faith in God has become known everywhere. *1 Thessalonians 1:7–8*

Additional Resources

“Why Does God Allow Suffering?”
Sermon by Mark Spurlock at <http://www.tlc.org/sermons/broadcast/audio/500>

Daily Meditations

Monday

Please read Matthew 7:24–27. How does your foundation impact your faith?

Are there “words of God” that you are hesitating to put into practice?

What kind of storm(s) are you currently experiencing?

What has that revealed about your spiritual foundation?

Thank God today that you have the Bible and the opportunity to know the “words of God.” Talk to Him about the storms you are currently experiencing and the ways your hesitating to put God’s Word into practice. Pray that your faith will grow and that God will use you to encourage other people’s faith.

Tuesday

Please read 1 Corinthians 13:13 & 1 Thessalonians 1:2–3. Why do you think faith, hope and love are frequently connected in scripture?

What difference does it make to have “work” and “labor” motivated by faith and love instead of duty alone?

continued 

How can hope inspire endurance?

In what way do you need that right now?

Thank God today that He has a plan to grow you. Pray that your work and labors will be motivated by faith and love. Ask God to give you a hope that will inspire endurance for the storms as well as the day-to-day demands of life.

Wednesday

Please read 1 Thessalonians 1:4–5a & 2:8–13. Faith alone doesn’t get us through troubled times. People have faith in all kinds of things and it turns out to be misplaced faith! Where do these verses tell you to put your faith?

We all struggle with putting our faith in something other than God. Take an honest assessment of where you’ve placed your faith. What/Who are you trusting instead of God? (Maybe it’s your own skills, money, effort, another person, your intelligence, your physical strength — it’s an endless list!)

What practical step can you take today to move away from misplaced trust to trust in God?

Thank God today for His patience with you. Pray that you’ll have the courage to release the things or people you may be trusting and place the full weight of your trust on God.

Thursday

Please read 1 Thessalonians 1:5b–6. According to these verses, how did Paul make such an impact on the Thessalonian church?

Think about someone who has “shared their life” with you. How did that impact you (for better or for worse!)?

Think about those you’re sharing your life with right now. What type of impact do you think you’re having?

How can you use that opportunity to point people to God and show them faith, love and hope?



Thank God today for the people He has placed in your life who have impacted you for the good. Pray that those you share your life with will see God shining through you. Ask Him to grow your love for Him daily.

We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. 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.
1 Thessalonians 1:2–3