



# Evidence of Election

## 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

# 1 Thessalonians 1:2-5

We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers constantly, bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father, knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you; for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.



# 1 Thessalonians 1:6-8

You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything.

# 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

# **Main Point**

Paul was convinced that God had chosen these Thessalonian believers because they were bearing the fruit consistent with the life promised in the New Covenant.

There is evidence of election.

# Life Promised in the New Covenant

## Jeremiah 31:33-34

“But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the LORD,  
“I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it;  
and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.  
They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and  
each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they will  
all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,”  
declares the LORD, “for I will forgive their iniquity,  
and their sin I will remember no more.”



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**all know Me, from the least of them**  
**to the greatest of them,**”

declares the LORD, “for I will forgive their iniquity,  
and their sin I will remember no more.”



# Life Promised in the New Covenant

## Ezekiel 11:19-20

“And I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them. And I will take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances and do them. Then they will be My people, and I shall be their God.”

# Life Promised in the New Covenant

## Ezekiel 36:25-27

“Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.”

# Paul's Thanksgiving

1 Thessalonians 1:2-4

**We give thanks to God** always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers constantly, bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father, knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you.



# Paul's Primary Reason

1 Thessalonians 1:2-4

**We give thanks** to God always for all of you,

making mention of you in our prayers constantly,  
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brethren beloved by God, **His choice of you.**

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in the presence of our God and Father, **knowing**,  
brethren beloved by God, ***your election***.

## How did Paul know they were elect?

# The evidence of their election

## 1 Thessalonians 1:2-4

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and labor of love  
and steadfastness of hope** in our Lord Jesus Christ

in the presence of our God and Father, knowing,  
brethren beloved by God, your election.

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The background is a faded map of Europe. Overlaid on the map are several text elements: 'VIGTK, v. v. i.' in the center, 'Národní technické' in the bottom right, and 'múzeum' in the bottom left. The main text is centered in the upper half of the image.

**What convinced Paul?**  
Their faith was producing work.

## **1 Thessalonians 1:2-4**

We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers constantly, bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father, ***having come to know***, brethren beloved by God, ***your election.***

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of you in our prayers constantly, **bearing in mind your work  
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## 1 Thessalonians 1:2-4

We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention

of you in our prayers constantly, **bearing in mind your work  
*produced by* faith** and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in  
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knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you.



# Faith that Produces Work

What is this faith?

# **Biblical Faith**

Biblical faith requires *knowing*  
Christ and His Gospel promises.



# Paul taught the Gospel to them

## 1 Thessalonians

**1:5** ...for our gospel did not come to you in word only

**2:4** ...but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak...

**2:8** ...we were well-pleased to impart to you  
...the gospel of God.

**2:9** ...we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

# Paul taught the Gospel to them

## 1 Thessalonians

**3:2** ...we sent Timothy our...fellow **worker in the gospel** of Christ to strengthen and encourage you **as to your faith**.

Paul never disconnects faith from the content of what is believed because faith *requires* knowledge of the truth.

## Romans 10:14

How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard?

# Biblical Faith

Biblical faith requires *knowing*  
Christ and His Gospel promises.

Biblical faith is *receiving* Christ and  
His Gospel promises personally.

# They had received Paul's message

## 1 Thessalonians 1:6

You also became imitators of us and of the Lord,  
***having received* the word** in much tribulation with  
the joy of the Holy Spirit.

## 1 Thessalonians 1:9

For they themselves report about us **what kind of a  
reception we had with you**, and how you turned  
to God from idols to serve a living and true God.



# They had received Paul's message

1 Thessalonians 2:13

**...when you received the word** of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God.

# They had received Paul's message

## 1 Thessalonians 2:13

...when you received the word of God which you heard from us, **you accepted it** not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God.

Faith is believing the Gospel and personally *receiving* the promises it makes as your own.

## 2 Thessalonians 2:9

...[they] perish, because **they did *not* receive** the love of the truth so as to be saved.

# But faith is a gift of God

**Ephesians 2:8**

For by grace you have been saved through faith;  
and that not of yourselves, **it is the gift of God...**

**Philippians 1:29**

For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not  
only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake.

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only **to believe in Him**, but also to suffer for His sake.



If we properly reckon with the deadness of our souls apart from grace, we can come to no other conclusion than that our faith had to be a gift of grace.



# Faith that Produces Work

What is this faith?

## What is this work?

**What kind of faith does God give?**

**Remember Ephesians 2:8**

**“...it is the gift of God.”**



# So, what kind of faith does God give?

## 1 Thessalonians 1:2-4

We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention

of you in our prayers constantly, **bearing in mind your work**

***produced by faith*** and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in

our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father,  
knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you.

# It is a work-producing faith.



# Remember the life of the New Covenant

## Jeremiah 31:33-34

“But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the LORD,

**“I will put My law within them and  
on their heart I will write it...”**

## Ezekiel 11:19-20

“And I will...put a new spirit within them.  
And I will take the heart of stone out of their flesh  
and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk  
in My statutes and keep My ordinances and do them...”

# **So, what is this work?**

## **2 Thessalonians 1:11-12**

To this end also we pray for you always,  
that our God will count you worthy of your calling,  
and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith  
with power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus  
will be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to  
the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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will be glorified in you**, and you in Him, according to  
the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The *work produced by faith* is  
the conduct of Christ; it is His life  
being worked out in and through us.

**Ephesians 2:10**

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus  
for good works, which God prepared beforehand  
so that we would walk in them.



# How do faith and works work?

*Faith thus receiving and resting on Christ, and his Righteousness, is the alone instrument of Justification:  
**yet it is not alone** in the person justified,  
but is ever accompanied with all other saving Graces,  
and is no dead faith, but worketh by love.”  
(LBC, 11.2)*

# How do faith and works work?

*“These **good works**, done in obedience to God’s commandments, **are the fruits, and evidences of a true, and lively faith**...*

*(LBC, 16.2)*

This work is evidence of election because it shows that faith has been given.

**James 2:18**

But someone may well say, “You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and **I will show you my faith by my works.**”

# What convinced Paul?

Their faith was producing work.

Their love was prompting labor.



## **1 Thessalonians 1:2-4**

We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers constantly, bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father, knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you.

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**Love that Prompts Labor**

What is this love?



It is the nature of God manifest in those born of Him, those who are His children.

**1 John 4:7-8**

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

The one who does not love does not know God,  
for God is love.

## 1 John 4:7-8

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God;

and **everyone who loves is born of God** and knows God.

The one who does not love does not know God,

**for God is love.**

God is love, and His children are born  
with His nature of love.

### **1 John 3:10**

By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.

It is family love, first and foremost.

**1 Thessalonians 4:9**

Now as to the **love of the brethren**,  
you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you  
yourselves are taught by God to **love one another**.

**1 John 4:7**

Beloved, let us love one another.



Though God's special love is set upon His people, yet He loves the world and declares Himself to it, and we do the same in love.



# Love that Prompts Labor

What is this love?

## What is this labor?

# 1 Thessalonians 1:2-4

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of you in our prayers constantly, bearing in mind **your** work

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of you in our prayers constantly, bearing in mind **your** work

of faith and ***toil* out from love** and steadfastness of hope in  
our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father,  
knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you.

Love is other-oriented, which means  
it is *not* self-focused, which means it is  
sacrificial, which means it is hard.



The hard work of relationships  
is the hard work of dying...  
...and it is the hard work  
of grace giving.



# What convinced Paul?

Their faith was producing work.

Their love was prompting labor.

Their hope was inspiring  
perseverance.

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of you in our prayers constantly, bearing in mind **your** work

of faith and labor of love and ***perseverance*** of hope in

our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father,  
knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you.



# Hope that Inspires Perseverance

## What is this hope?

Hope is assurance that comes from  
full confidence in the Lord Jesus.

**1 Thessalonians 1:3**

...bearing in mind your...perseverance of hope in our  
Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father...



Hope is assurance that comes from  
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**1 Thessalonians 1:3**

...bearing in mind your...perseverance of **hope in our**  
**Lord Jesus Christ** in the presence of our God and Father...



This hope in Christ is ultimately assurance  
of His eschatological salvation.

**1 Thessalonians 1:9-10**

...how you turned to God from idols to serve a living  
and true God, **and to wait for His Son from heaven**,  
whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus,  
who rescues us from the wrath to come.

The hope of our salvation empowers us to wait with perseverance, that is, to persist through persecution and hardship with our eyes eagerly fixed on what we can't yet see.

**Romans 8:25**

But if we hope for what we do not see,  
**with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.**

This hope is part of the armor that protects us when facing the temporal hardships associated with suffering and persecution.

**1 Thessalonians 5:8**

But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.





# Hope that Inspires Perseverance

What is this hope?

What is this perseverance?



## 1 Thessalonians 1:2-4

bearing in mind **your** work of faith and labor of love and

***perseverance* of hope**

in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father...

## 1 Thessalonians 1:2-4

bearing in mind **your** work of faith and labor of love and

**perseverance *inspired by* hope**

in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father...

Perseverance is more than mere survival;  
it is continuing exertion of missional effort  
***despite*** hardships and opposition.

# **A Persecuted Missional Church**

## **1 Thessalonians 1:6**

...having received the word in much tribulation.

## **1 Thessalonians 2:2**

...we had the boldness in our God to speak to you  
the gospel of God amid much opposition.

## **1 Thessalonians 2:14**

For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches  
of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you also endured  
the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen...

# A Persecuted Missional Church



Bear in mind that one way to end the suffering is to give in to the demands of the opposition and give up on the mission.



# **A Persecuted Missional Church**

## **1 Thessalonians 3:3-4**

...so that no one would be disturbed by these afflictions;  
for you yourselves know that we have been destined for this.  
For indeed when we were with you, we kept telling you  
in advance that we were going to suffer affliction;  
and so it came to pass, as you know.

## **2 Thessalonians 1:4**

Therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the  
churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst  
of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure.

Faith produces hope, and hope inspires perseverance through any circumstance, and this hope bears witness that we belong to Christ.

# **Conclusion**

Is your faith producing work?

Is your love prompting labor?

Is your hope inspiring perseverance?