

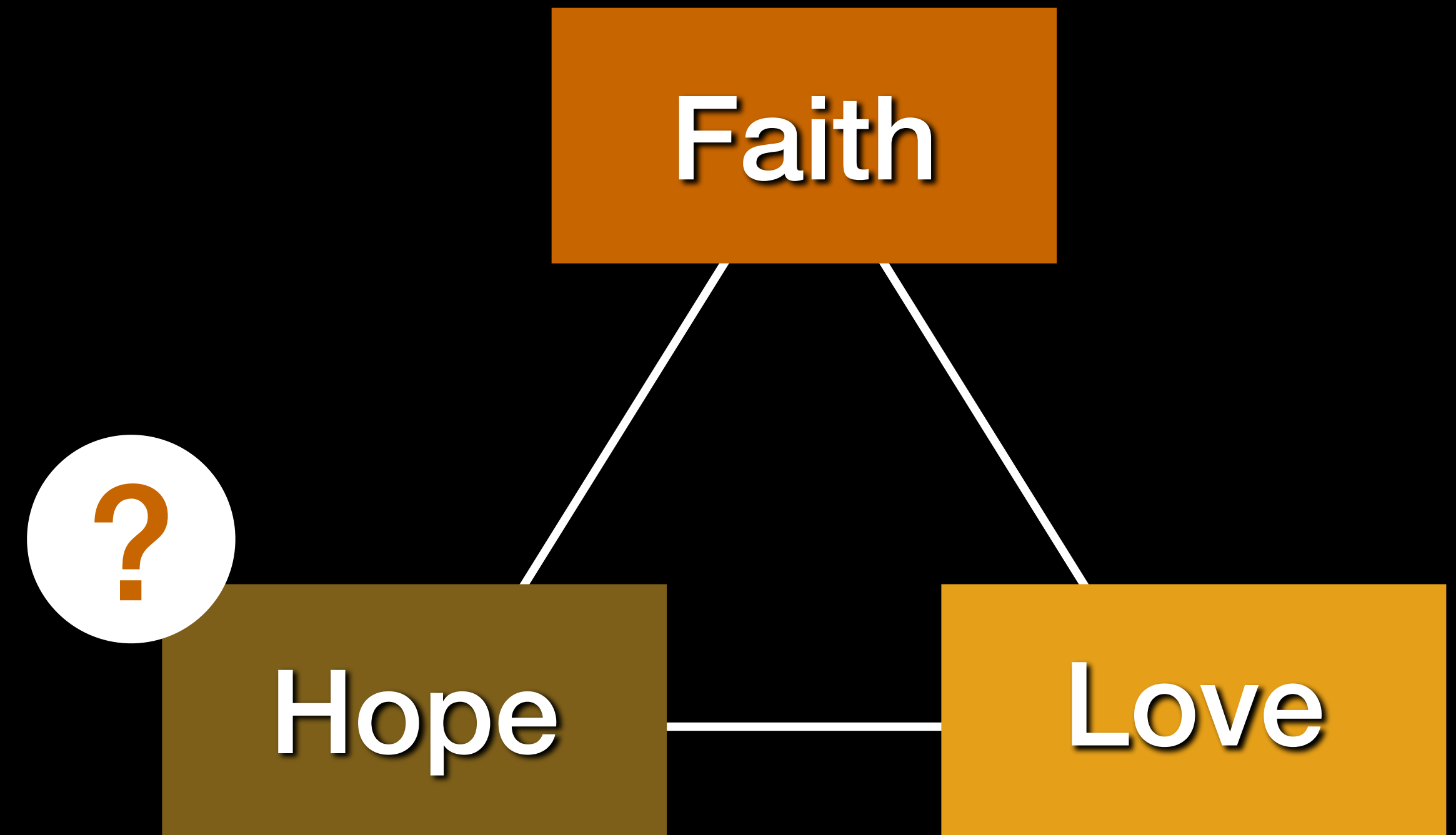
# 2 THESSALONIANS

## STEADFAST IN SUFFERING





- ? What does this teach us about *hope*?
- ? How might it grow our *faith* and *love*?



# Principle

A church that is maturing in hope is one that remains faithful through gospel persecution; with fortitude to live for the Believer Judgment and trusting in God's timely justice.

## 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup> Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, <sup>2</sup> not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. <sup>3</sup> Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, <sup>4</sup> who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.

<sup>5</sup> Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? <sup>6</sup> And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. <sup>7</sup> For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. <sup>8</sup> And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. <sup>9</sup> The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, <sup>10</sup> and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

<sup>11</sup> Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, <sup>12</sup> in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

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and <sup>2</sup>the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

<sup>4</sup> who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or  
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Judgment Of  
Believers (Bema)

Rapture

Second  
Coming



**ANTICHRIST**  
Treaty & Temple

Abomination of  
Desolation

Battle of  
Armageddon



Church

Tribulation



Judgment Of  
Unbelievers



“Day Of The Lord”



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<sup>9</sup> The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan

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<sup>10</sup> and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing,

because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

*“If the Spirit of God indwells the church and the church is taken out of the world, then the Spirit of God will also be taken out of the world. This does not mean that the Spirit will not continue working in the world in some way; but it will mean a reversal of Pentecost...”*

*The presence of believers in the world exerts a great influence upon the wicked world. Christians who have stood for civic righteousness and law and order will no longer be in evidence. For the time being at least, there will be no one except unsaved people to run government. The net result will be that evil will be manifested beyond anything known in the history of man.”*

**- John Walvoord**



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*To believe that the Judgment has already passed would lead to a life of fundamental self preservation and disengagement in the face of persecution.*

? How might it grow our *faith* and *love*?

*To have a proper understanding of the time and place that we live in, which is in fact PRIOR TO the Judgment, leads us to believe and proclaim the gospel out of sacrificial love for those who have yet to believe.*



**Next Week**

2 Thessalonians 2:13-17