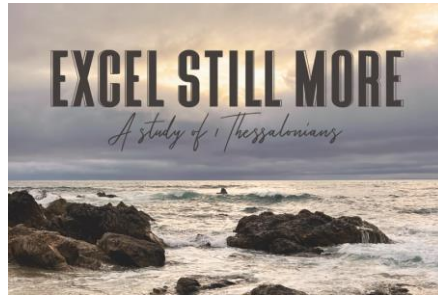


# DISCIPLE'S QUEST

*If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine.*

John 8:31



**September 3, 2023**

**1 Thessalonians 1:3-5**

**Working Faith, Laboring Love and Enduring Hope**

## **Main Idea**

The outburst of thanksgiving offered to God by Paul, Silas and Timothy that opens 1 Thessalonians was motivated by the strong faith and salvation of the believers. The missionaries rejoiced because even in the midst of hardship and persecution, the new Christians that composed the church at Thessalonica thrived spiritually, even becoming a powerful witness for Christ throughout the entire region. As Paul joyously remembered their reception of the Gospel, He recalled a faith that worked, a sacrificial love that labored and a hope that endured.

## **Outline**

### 3 Key Questions About Real Faith

#### 1. How can real faith be identified?

- Through a changed life
- Through the presence of sacrificial love for others
- Through the possession of unshakable hope

#### 2. What is the grounds of salvation, or put differently, who produces real faith in the believer's life?

#### 3. When does the Christian's salvation occur?

## Questions for further contemplation and application after the message:

#1 The believers at Thessalonica had a faith that worked, meaning that it was proven to be authentic through the transformed lives they lived after professing faith in Christ. But what about those who say they believe, but never bear any spiritual fruit? Can that “faith” save them? What does James say about the matter?

#2 What are the dangers of preaching a soft gospel that does not call people to committed repentant faith?

#3 Why did the agape (sacrificial love) of the Thessalonian believers inspire them to toil for the spiritual well-being of others?

Who is the ultimate example of sacrificial love?

#4 What is the unique hope that believers in Jesus possess? Why can it endure even hardship and persecution?

#5 How is the absolute sovereignty of God in salvation a blessing to believers? (Note, there are many ways.)