

Points to ponder: 1 Thessalonians

Core Concepts

1. Work of Faith
2. Labor of Love
3. Steadfastness of Hope

1. Gospel by words
2. Power in the Holy Spirit
3. Full conviction

Key Points:

1. Paul, the master articulator

- In the writings of Paul, the first few chapters lay the conceptual foundations of the rest of the book.
- Each of Paul's letters was to be read ALOUD and in ONE setting.

2. Paul SOLIDIFIES opening core concepts

- Works of FAITH
 - o 1Th 2:9 ESV - For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.
- Labors of LOVE
 - o Here Paul emphasizes his early groundwork of the labor of love by likening it to a MOTHER and child.
 - o 1Th 2:7 ESV - But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children.
 - o 1Th 2:8 ESV - So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.
 - o 1Th 2:7 ESV - But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children.
 - o 1Th 2:8 ESV - So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.
 - o 1Th 2:9 ESV - For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

One of the most outstanding examples Paul gives to us about the concept of *Labor of Love* is the willful denial of PERSONAL rights for the sake of fellow believers.

- Steadfastness of HOPE

*Paul first highlights the fact that the work Paul has done through trials was not in vain. He is setting up the pivot to how they (Thessalonians) and others like them have endured.

*I believe this is to COUNTER one of the strongest WEAPONS of the mind when we're facing hardship. The thinking that we are the only ones going through what we're going through.

- 1Th 2:1 ESV - For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain.
- 1Th 2:12 ESV - we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.
- 1Th 2:13 ESV - And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.
- 1Th 2:14 ESV - For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea. For you suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews,
- 1Th 2:15 ESV - who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out, and displease God and oppose all mankind
- 1Th 2:16 ESV - by hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles that they might be saved--so as always to fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them at last!

To live a fulfilled and secure Christain life Paul gives us key concepts to defend and grow in our spiritual lives.

1. Works of Faith
2. Labors of Love
3. Steadfast Hope

Action Item: Which of these disciplines can you work on in your life this week and how?
