

# May 31 Sermon 1

## Faith That Inspires Us to Love

Text: 1 Thessalonians 1:3; 2:8 Theme: True faith in Christ produces laboring love and shared life.

Introduction: The Problem and the Question

Paul remembers the Thessalonians for their “work of faith,” “labor of love,” and “steadfastness of hope.” The question is: What kind of faith actually changes the way we love? The problem is that faith can become private, passive, or disconnected from real relationships. Christ is the solution: His love turns belief into visible, sacrificial love.

1 Thessalonians 1:3 “Remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

1 Thessalonians 2:8 8 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.

### 1. Faith Works

Faith is not merely something we claim; it becomes something we live.

The Bible teaches about faith progressively: “the seven levels of faith.”

A simple Bible-based progression can be seen through the words Scripture uses. First, there is no faith, as Jesus asked in Mark 4:40, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have **no faith**?” Then there is little faith, as Jesus said in **Matthew 6:30**, “Won’t he do much more for you—you of **little faith**?” There is also **weak faith**, mentioned in **Romans 14:1**: “Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters.” Faith can then become **growing faith, as 2 Thessalonians 1:3 says**, “Your faith is growing more and more.” The Bible also speaks of **strong faith**, as Romans 4:20 says of Abraham, “He did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God.” Jesus also praised great faith in Matthew 8:10, saying, “Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with

such **great faith**.” Finally, Scripture speaks of **full assurance of faith** in Hebrews 10:22: “Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings.” So, in modern wording, the progression would be: **no faith, little faith, weak faith, growing faith, strong faith, great faith, and full assurance of faith**.

**Emphasis:** *Living faith becomes visible faith.*

## 2. Love Labors

Christian love is not sentimental only; it sacrifices, serves, and stays.

**Emphasis:** *Christlike love is willing to carry weight.*

## 3. Ministry Shares Life

Paul shared not only the gospel but also himself.

**Emphasis:** *Love gives truth and gives itself.*

## ACTION:

### 1. Let Faith Become Action

Ask where your faith needs to become visible this week.

### 2. Love Beyond Convenience

Serve someone when it costs time, energy, comfort, or attention.

### 3. Share Your Life, Not Just Your Words

Move from distant kindness to relational presence.

## Early Church Father Quote

Tertullian wrote of Christians: “See how they love one another.”

The early church’s witness was not only their doctrine, but their love.

## Conclusion

Faith that inspires love is not shallow belief. It is faith formed by Christ, expressed through sacrifice, and shared in community.

## Prayer

Lord Jesus, deepen our faith so that it becomes visible in love. Teach us to serve beyond convenience and care beyond words. Make our church a place where

the gospel is shared through both truth and presence. May our love point others to You.

#### Benediction

May Christ strengthen your faith and deepen your love. May He make your life a witness of His grace. May your work of faith and labor of love bless others. Go in peace to love as Christ has loved you.