How They Persevered

Ken Chapman · 2 Thessalonians 1:3–4

INTRODUCTION

- What would these brand new Christians do in the face of active opposition and persecution?
- Brand new Christians. To our understanding, not a seasoned veteran among them. All of them babes in Christ.
- Let's look at how they did that, with the view of not just learning the rest of the story, but with the view of making that the rest of our story.

1 Their Faith Grew Exceedingly

2 Thessalonians 1:3; 1 Thessalonians 1:2–3; James 1:3

- We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly.
- In the first letter, he says, your faith. And in the second letter, your faith that has grown exceedingly.
- The testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And so sometimes our faith has to be tested in order for it to grow.
- Our faith grows as our knowledge grows.
- When faced with dark moments, when faced with temptation and struggles, we need to simply pray that same three-word prayer. Increase our faith.
- And the closer we get to God, the greater our faith. Our faith must grow exceedingly.

2 Their Love Abounded One Toward Another

2 Thessalonians 1:3; Acts 4:32–35; Acts 6:2

- The love of every one of you all abounds toward each other.
- Why is there still a church at Thessalonica? It's because their love abounded. One toward another.
- And with great power, the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.
- The cause of Christ, which is ultimately not just feeding the poor and the needy, but it's about the salvation of souls, that cause will be fostered and promoted by this sacrificial giving love.
- It is not desirable that we should leave the Word of God and serve tables.
- We can't be promoting the spiritual message if we're not practicing in very real ways selfless love.

3 They Lived in Hope

2 Thessalonians 2:16–17

- Who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace. Comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.
- They were able to persevere because of hope.

- Paul talks about the second coming in both of these epistles to further establish their hope.
- They lived in hope. They were being taught to endure in hope.
- Paul was reminding them this life is not all that there is.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **What will be the rest of my story? Will I survive what I'm facing? Or will I be another cautionary tale of those who began the race but lost?**

MY NOTES