

## Our Glory and Joy

### 1 Thessalonians 1

*Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians [which is] in God the Father and [in] the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace [be] unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. 2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; 3 Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father; 4 Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God. 5 For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake. 6 And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost: 7 So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia. 8 For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing. 9 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; 10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, [even] Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.*

### 1 Thessalonians 2

*1 For yourselves, brethren, know our entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain:*

*2 But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.*

- *And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast [them] into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: 24 Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.*

**Acts 16:23-24**

*3 For our exhortation [was] not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile:*

*4 But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.*

- *For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.*

**Galatians 1:10**

- *But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.*

**2 Corinthians 4:2**

*5 For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God [is] witness:*

*6 Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor [yet] of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ.*

- *Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.*

**Galatians 5:26**

- *How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that [cometh] from God only?*

**John 5:44**

*7 But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children:*

- *To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.*

**1 Corinthians 9:22**

*8 So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.*

- *And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all [men], apt to teach, patient,*

**2 Timothy 2:24**

- *And [if] thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness [be] as the noonday:*

**Isaiah 58:10**

*9 For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God.*

*10 Ye [are] witnesses, and God [also], how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:*

- *Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.*

**1 Corinthians 11:1**

- *Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.*

**Philippians 3:17**

*11 As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father [doth] his children,*

*12 That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.*

*13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received [it] not [as] the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.*

That you have not perceived spiritual things is true; but it is no proof that there are none to perceive. The whole case is like that of the Irishman who tried to upset evidence by non-evidence. Four witnesses saw him commit a murder. He pleaded that he was not guilty, and wished to establish his innocence by producing forty persons who did not see him do it. Of what use would that have been? So, if forty people declare that there is no power of the Holy Ghost going with the word, this only proves that the forty people do not know what others do know. (Spurgeon)

- *And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to usward who believe, according to the work of his mighty power.*

**Ephesians 1:19**

- *For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*

**Philippians 2:13**

*14 For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they [have] of the Jews:*

*15 Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men:*

*16 Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost.*

*17 But we, brethren, being taken from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavoured the more abundantly to see your face with great desire.*

*18 Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.*

19 For what [is] our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? [Are] not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

20 For ye are our glory [doxa] and joy [chara].

Joy is the optimistic expectancy of God's grace in the pathway of obedience to Him; a burst of insight and attitude concerning our mission that will carry us through.... Since joy is to be set before us, it is our perception of what God is doing in grace. It is the privilege of fulfilling what the Father wants, knowing we have invested in something beyond the challenges of this moment for the goal of our Father.

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Thankful for:

- **Unity** (the leaders are unified; they realize it's not about them individually, but who God has called them to be as a nation, for their nation)
- Stepped into their **identity** as sons of the Father, assuming responsibility as sons
- On fire, **functioning** in His *agape*, passionate about their pursuit to do His bidding
- **Established** in who the Father has commissioned them to be
- We are **grafted** in with them