




International Baptist Church Eindhoven
Your Christian Family Away From Home

SERMON LAST WEEK:

Persecution

**Concern for the faith of the believers in
Thessaloniki**

But... good news from Timothy

**Paul speaks about the faith and love of
the Thessalonians**



1 Thessalonians 3: 6-13

Faith and Love

⁶ But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your **faith** and **love**. He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you.



7 Therefore, brothers and sisters, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your **faith**. For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord.

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your **faith**.



¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. ¹² May the Lord make your **love** increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.

¹³ May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

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FAITH AND LOVE

Often named with hope

Faith, hope and love: christian virtues

Classical virtues:

Self control, courage, wisdom, justness

Can be learned and trained

Christian virtues: gifts from God

Must be received and trained

Essential for salvation and sanctification

GIFTS FROM GOD

not the result of

an exertion of our own willpower

positive thinking

uttering of a formula of words

But the answer to prayer and openness to
receive



FAITH

Without faith it is impossible to please God

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek Him

Hebrews 11:6



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LOVE

Without love it is impossible to obey God

36 “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

37 Jesus replied:

‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

Matthew 22:26-39



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Faith and love grow

Towards perfection -Through practice and prayer – of ourselves and others

“Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your **faith**.”

Will only be perfect in the day of the Lord

“so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.”



Faith and love grow

Accepting current imperfection in ourselves and others, but not giving up striving towards perfection

- danger of externalising evil: pharisees also striving for perfection, but justifying themselves by criticizing others;
- preachers involved in immorality speaking out the strongest against others.



THE BOND OF LOVE

every sentence of the text is full of love
and being connected - us, you, our:



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Us and you, and our

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