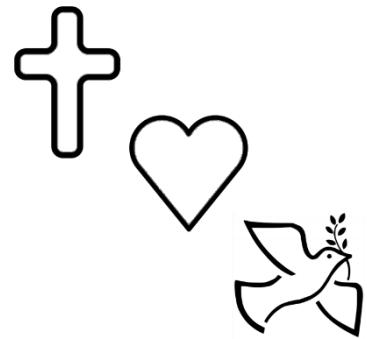


**November 1, 2020**  
**Willerup United Methodist Church**  
**Sermon Notes**  
**Pastor Marvin Singh**  
**1 & 2 Thessalonians, Lesson 6**  
**Faith in Action**



This series of meditations is based on the books of First and Second Thessalonians.

The Letters to the Thessalonians were written by Paul to confirm the truths he had taught while he was with them and to dispel any false teachings that had spread among them. He commended them for their faith, encouraged them to press on in faith and love, and showed why they could always have hope in Christ.

**Faith in Action**

**1 Thessalonians 3:5-13**

<sup>5</sup>For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter might have tempted you and our efforts might have been useless.

<sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>Therefore, brothers, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith. <sup>8</sup>For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord. <sup>9</sup>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?

<sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. <sup>12</sup>May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. <sup>13</sup>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.

Timothy went to Thessalonica and reported back to Paul about the church. Then Paul wrote this letter to them.

Paul was very happy and blessed to receive a positive report from his ministry to Thessalonian people.

#### **A. Thanking God for Their Faith and Love, vs 5-6**

Faith – within, receiving the gospel of Jesus Christ, which changed and transformed them.

Faith is to be expressed through ACTION. Words are not enough, people desire to experience practicing what we say and preach. Love is that action expressing their faith.

**Love for the Lord** – “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” (Matthew 22:37-39; Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18)  
When people began to see the impact and witness the change, they are drawn to the Lord. From my childhood I remember the chorus.

*Great change since I was born,  
Great change since I was born.  
Things I used to do I do it no more  
Places I used to go I go there no more.  
Things I used to say I say it no more,  
Since I have been born again.*

I also read the booklet which we used to distribute as a tract during my ministry through Operation Mobilization (founder- George Verwer, the ministry of Ship LOGOS). It was in my formative years in Christian life.

The booklet showed a young man's heart, and in it were different kinds of animals or birds, depicting their character:

Lion- the spirit of tearing and devouring,

Peacock- the spirit of pride, arrogance, egoistic,

Serpent- deceiver, crooked walk,

Goat- goading others with the horns,

Eagle- with a penetrating eye to find food and snatch things from others,

Etc.

Then this young man had a knock of Jesus at the door of his heart. He allowed him in. Jesus began to drive out the spirits and cleansed the heart. Jesus began to reign and live in every part of his body, mind and soul.

Our worship team sang this beautiful song last Sunday in our on-site worship service.

*“Lord Reign in Me”*

*Over every thought, over every word*

*May my life reflect the beauty of my Lord*

*You mean more to me than any earthly thing*

*So, won't you reign in me again.*

Paul writes to Corinthians. 2 Corinthians 5:17

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come.”

When this happens, we begin to consult the Lord in all our expressions as he begins to reign in me. We begin to know the will of the Lord.

What pleases him?

Romans 12:1 – Now the body belongs to the Lord and I have to present it to him - as a living sacrifice holy and pleasing to God, my worship becomes spiritual. Now I am transformed - as my mind is renewed and the Lord is testing me and approving me. I am doing his will which is perfect and pleasing to him.

My growth group is studying *The Unshakable Truth* by Josh McDowell and Sean McDowell. They describe what real love is and does.

1. It sacrifices. It does not think about itself but comforts others.
2. It sacrifices comfort. The big payoff for enduring the discomforts of sacrificial love is joy - some on this earth and the rest in eternity.
3. It sacrifices possessions. Show your love and compassion to your brothers and sisters in need, care for the orphans and widows. (1 John 3:17; James 1:27)

Giving sacrificially like the poor widow. Most of the people gave a tiny part of their surplus but she has given everything she has. (Mark 12:43)

4. Real love sacrifices time. McDowell says children spell love as: T-I-M-E. People need your time if you love them.
5. Real love affirms. Jesus choose to come to be with us in our pain and agony. When friends and family abandon us, and we go to him, he affirms his love towards us. When others are happy, be happy with them. If they are sad, share their sorrow.

Josh McDowell, Sean McDowell, *The Unshakeable Truth* (Harvest House Publishers, Eugene, Oregon, 2010) pg. 203-209

Love is the legitimate fruit of a genuine faith, both in its inward experience and outward manifestation. 1 John 3:23

The church has the best reputation when faith is maintained and love is manifested. *The Preacher's Homiletic Commentary (Thessalonians)* pg. 513-514

## **B. The Comprehensive Apostolic Prayer of Paul vs. 7-10**

Prayer of joy for the steadfastness of Believers.

A source of true ministerial satisfaction. Other professions get their satisfaction in other ways:

The Scholar- intellectual exercises as accumulating stores of knowledge.

The Politician- Excitement of debate and triumph of great principles.

The Scientist- Testing and harmonizing the laws of nature.

The Merchant- gains and profit.

The Minister of the God's Word- in the increase of converts to the faith, and consistency, fidelity, and perseverance in the practice of godliness.

*The Preacher's Homiletics Commentary*, pg. 515

Vs 11-13 – Paul's Prayer:

1. "May our God and Father" - our relationship with the Father is through His son Jesus Christ. "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." (John 1:12)

2. "May the Lord make your"

(i). "Love increase and overflow for each other,"

(ii). "And for everyone else."

3. May He strengthen your hearts so that you be in the presence of our Lord, till he comes back (i) blameless and (ii) holy.

Paul desires that, though they are doing well in their Christian life, they would continue to increase in faith and love.

Our prayer for guidance must be ever be in submission to the divine will. Paul wants them to know that Christian love is progressive and natural. It unselfish and to be followed by others. (1 Thessalonians 2:8, 9, 13; 3:3-5)

Love is the soul of self-sacrifice, it prompts to labor, braves all suffering, and persists in doing good to others even to those who were least appreciative and most violently oppose the best endeavors.

Paul prays for them to remain conformed in a state of unblameable personal pain and suffering. There is no stability in Christian graces apart from love. (vs. 13)

Unblameable holiness is the legitimate and necessary outcome of love. Holiness screens the soul from divine censures at the second advent of Christ.

*The Preacher's Homiletics Commentary*, pg. 515

References used in preparing sermons in this series:

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