

# Women of Grace

## Lesson 2

### 1 Thessalonians 1:1-4

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The Spiritual path of the righteous does not go from light to darkness; it goes from dim light to full light. It becomes ever brighter as the person's work of faith increases, his labour of love intensifies, and his hope perseveres more and more."

- John MacArthur, *New Testament Commentary: 1&2 Thessalonians*

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### Read 1 Thessalonians 1

#### Day 1: Union with God (v. 1)

1. Paul addresses the Thessalonians as having a new identity. What little word do you see that indicates they have union with God the Father and Lord Jesus Christ? See Ephesians 1:3-4.
2. What is union with Christ? See Romans 6:3-7.
3. Define the word *grace*:
  - a. Using a dictionary
  - b. Using a biblical source
  - c. What differences do you see between the two definitions?
4. Define the word *peace*.

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5. What is the connection between *grace* and *peace* in the life of a believer?

### Day 2: Evidence of Union with God, Part 1 (vs. 2-3)

1. What were Paul, Silas and Timothy constantly doing? See 1 Thess 5:17-18.
  - a. Are your prayers adorned with thanksgiving, especially for those in faithful gospel service? What steps can you take to “excel still more” in your prayers for GraceLife?
2. In verse 3, what are the three things Paul recalls about the Thessalonians?
3. What does Paul mean by a “work of faith”? Is he in anyway teaching that works produce saving faith? Why or why not?
  - a. What is the connection between *works* and *faith* in the life of a believer?
  - b. What does Ephesians 2:10 and Philippians 2:12-13 say about our works?

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## Day 3: Evidence of Union with God, Part 2 (vs. 2-3)

1. Read John 13:35. What is one of the marks of a true believer?
  - a. How are we to love one another? See 1 Peter 1:22, Romans 12:9-13, and 1 Corinthians 13-4-8a.
  
2. What does *labour* entail?
  - a. How are *labour* and *love* connected for the Christian?
  
3. Define *hope*.
  - a. Steadfastness can be defined as “staying under pressure”. How does this better help you understand hope in “our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father”?
  
4. According to verse 3, where is a Christian to find hope?
  - a. Do believers define hope in the same way the world does?

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- b. What hope do we have in this life and the next?
  
  - c. List things you find your hope in. Is there anything on this list that you need to get rid of?
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5. In the midst of the Thessalonians' difficulty, Paul continually pointed to the certain hope and eager expectation of what event? Where did he want their thoughts fixed? See 1 Thess 1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:14-17; & 5:23.
    - a. Does the return of Christ fill your thoughts? How might this certain hope change your thinking and actions during trials?
  
  6. Are these three virtues of faith, hope and love evident in your life? How would like to see greater growth in these virtues?

### **Day 4: Union: Loved by God (v. 4)**

1. Paul addresses the Thessalonians as “brethren beloved by God”. Find two other verses that speak of God's love for his children. Meditate on what it means to you as a child of God that you are “beloved by God.”
  
2. What kind of love does the Father have for us? See John 17:23, 26.

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3. What kind of love does Christ have for us? See John 15:9.
  
4. What should be your response to God's love? See John 14:15.
  
5. How is God's love expressed in verse 4?
  - a. How has the knowledge that you are beloved of God and chosen by Him impacted you?
  
6. Write a prayer of thanksgiving for all of the evidence of God's love toward you, both physical and spiritual.

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## Day 5: Union: Chosen by God (v. 4)

1. How is a believer saved? Is it by man's choice or God's?
  
2. How would you explain *Election*?
  
3. Read the following verses. Note who is doing what in each verse.
  - a. John 6:35-40
  
  - b. Romans 9:15-16
  
  - c. Ephesians 2:8-9
  
  - d. Ephesians 1:4-6
  
  - e. Romans 8:28-30
  
4. Why does God choose anyone? See Deut 7:7-8; Eph 1:6, 2 Thess 1:10.
  - a. What kind of people does God choose? See 1 Cor 1:26-28.

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b. Whom does God save? See John 6:37, Psalm 51:17, Matt 11:28.

5. What does election teach us about God's love and grace?

6. How does the knowledge that you are elected bring hope, peace and rest? See John 10:27.

## Dig Deeper

1. Using a systematic theology, look up "Union with Christ." Write out what *union with Christ* is in your own words.

2. Write a prayer of thanksgiving about GraceLife.

3. Write a letter or card to 3 women giving thanks for their work of faith, labour of love, and steadfastness of hope in the presence of our God and Father.

4. Write out examples of each virtue:

a. Work of faith

b. Labour of love

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- c. Steadfastness of hope
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- 5. What three things do you want to be remembered for?
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- 6. Meditate on the verses that mention the elect and election: Luke 18:7; Rom 8:3; Col 3:12; 2 Tim 2:10.