

What Does Faith, Love and Hope Produce?

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

We are familiar with the trio of faith, hope and love found in 1 Corinthians 13:13: “Now abideth **faith, hope, charity [love]**, these three; but the greatest of these is charity [love].” This trio is also found in 1 Thessalonians 1:3: “Remembering without ceasing your work of **faith**, and labor of **love**, and patience of **hope** in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father.” To bring out the significance of the little word “of” used three times, consider this paraphrase: “your work prompted by faith, your labor springing from love, your patience inspired by hope.”

1) WORK OF FAITH. When we believe God, it will produce God-honoring work. By faith Noah built an ark, Rahab received spies, the Israelites at Jericho blew trumpets, David felled a giant, Peter left the boat and walked on water, etc. Good works spring from a living faith (*James 2:14-26*). Many today claim to be believers, but where is the work that should spring from faith? Faith must be expressed by work and transformed into action.

2) LABOR OF LOVE. Labor refers to strenuous exertion to the point of weariness and exhaustion. True love will result in self-sacrificing labor, the giving of oneself strenuously for the sake of the one loved. Love will inspire labor and toil to meet the needs of the person loved. “God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor **of love** ...in that ye have ministered to the saints and do minister” (*Heb. 6:10*).

3) PATIENCE OF HOPE. Hope looks beyond the present trial. Hope looks beyond the dark clouds and sees the sun. The believer has the certain expectancy of a bright future, and having this hope inspires us to bravely bear up under every difficulty, obstacle and problem. With our eyes on God’s promises, we can endure and bravely face every trial!

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org

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