

Home Group Helps

1 Thessalonians 3:6-10

Living in the Light of His Return: Four Graces of a Pious Christian

⁶ But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always think kindly of us, longing to see us just as we also long to see you, ⁷ for this reason, brethren, in all our distress and affliction we were comforted about you through your faith; ⁸ for now we *really* live, if you stand firm in the Lord. ⁹ For what thanks can we render to God for you in return for all the joy with which we rejoice before our God on your account, ¹⁰ as we night and day keep praying most earnestly that we may see your face, and may complete what is lacking in your faith?

I. Faith (v.6a, 7-8) – ⁶ But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us good news of your faith . . . ⁷ for this reason, brethren, in all our distress and affliction we were comforted about you through your faith; ⁸ for now we *really* live, if you stand firm in the Lord.

II. Love (v.6b) – love, and that you always think kindly of us, longing to see us just as we also long to see you,

III. Prayer (v.9-10a) – ⁹ For what thanks can we render to God for you in return for all the joy with which we rejoice before our God on your account, ¹⁰ as we night and day keep praying most earnestly

IV. Fellowship (v.6b, 10b) – longing to see us just as we also long to see you, . . . that we may see your face, and may complete what is lacking in your faith?

1. Launching Question(s):

- How have you been blessed when you have ministered to others? Can you give an example?

2. Observation Question(s):

- Paul implies four graces that should be the experience of every pious Christian: Faith, Love, Prayer, and Fellowship.
- How are these graces interrelated?
- Which of these graces do you need to better exercise?
- Which of these graces do you think our church needs to better exercise?

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- Francois Fenelon stated that “True piety . . . enlarges the heart; it is simple, free, and attractive”
- How is this so?
- Paul said in vs. 8, “for now we *really* live, if you stand firm in the Lord.”
- What does this statement tell you about the Apostle Paul and his love for the church?

4. Reflection Question(s):

- How do you suppose that Paul prayed for the Thessalonian Christians?
- How does selfishness work against living out the four graces of faith, love, prayer, and fellowship?

5. Application Question(s):

- How can you demonstrate these graces with someone new this week?

October 16th, AD 2022