

1 Thessalonians 1:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;

Analysis

Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ—this verse introduces Paul's 'faith-hope-love' triad (also 1 Cor 13:13; Col 1:4-5), here with distinctive emphases. Each virtue produces action: *ergon tēs pisteōs* (ἔργον τῆς πίστεως, 'work produced by faith'), *kopos tēs agapēs* (κόπος τῆς ἀγάπης, 'toil produced by love'), and *hypomonē tēs elpidos* (ὑπομονὴ τῆς ἐλπίδος, 'endurance produced by hope'). Faith works, love toils to exhaustion, hope endures.

In the sight of God and our Father (*emprosthen tou Theou kai Patros hēmōn*, ἔμπροσθεν τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ Πατρὸς ἡμῶν)—their virtues are exercised *coram Deo*, 'before the face of God.' The Thessalonians' faith wasn't theoretical but active in works (James 2:17); their love wasn't sentimental but costly (*kopos* implies wearying labor); their hope wasn't passive but produced perseverance under persecution. This trinity of graces flows from union with Christ—notice 'in our Lord Jesus Christ,' the source and sphere of all Christian virtue.

Historical Context

The Thessalonians demonstrated these virtues despite brutal persecution. After Paul left, local Jews and thugs had attacked Jason's house, dragging believers before city authorities with charges of treason against Caesar (Acts 17:5-9). Yet their faith continued producing works, their love kept laboring despite cost, and

their hope in Christ's return sustained endurance. This real-world testing proved the genuineness of their conversion from idols (1:9).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does each element of the faith-hope-love triad produce specific action in your life rather than remaining abstract belief?
2. What 'labour of love' in your life has been costly enough to qualify as *kopos* (toiling to exhaustion)?
3. How does living 'in the sight of God our Father' change your motivation for perseverance compared to human recognition?

Interlinear Text

ἀδιαλείπτως μνημονεύοντες ὑμῶν τοῦ ἔργου τῆς πίστεως
without ceasing **Remembering** **your** G3588 **work** G3588 **of faith**
G89 G3421 G5216 G2041 G4102

καὶ τοῦ κόπου τῆς ἀγάπης καὶ τῆς ὑπομονῆς τῆς
and G3588 **labour** G3588 **of love** **and** G3588 **patience** G3588
G2532 G2873 G26 G2532 G5281

ἐλπίδος τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ ἔμπροσθεν τοῦ
of hope G3588 **Lord** **in our** **Jesus** **Christ** **in the sight** G3588
G1680 G2962 G2257 G2424 G5547 G1715

θεοῦ καὶ πατρὸς ἡμῶν
of God **and** **Father** **in our**
G2316 G2532 G3962 G2257

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 13:13 (Faith): And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

Revelation 2:19 (Faith): I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.

Galatians 5:6 (Faith): For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

2 Thessalonians 1:11 (Faith): Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power:

1 John 5:3 (Love): For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

Galatians 6:9 (Parallel theme): And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

1 John 3:3 (Hope): And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

Romans 15:13 (Faith): Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Hebrews 10:36 (References God): For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

1 Corinthians 15:58 (Love): Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

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