

# 1 Thessalonians 3:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also to see you:

## Analysis

**But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also to see you**—arti de elthontos Timothou pros hēmas aph' hymōn kai euangelisamenou hēmin tēn pistin kai tēn agapēn hymōn (ἄρτι δὲ ἐλθόντος Τιμοθέου πρὸς ἡμᾶς ἀφ' ὑμῶν καὶ εὐαγγελισαμένου ἡμῖν τὴν πίστιν καὶ τὴν ἀγάπην ὑμῶν, 'but now Timothy having come to us from you and having brought good news of your faith and love'). Euangelizō (εὐαγγελίζω, 'to bring good news/evangelize') typically describes gospel proclamation; here it describes good news about the Thessalonians.

Timothy reported three things:

1. **faith and charity** (πίστις καὶ ἀγάπη, pistis kai agapē)—the marks of authentic Christianity
2. **good remembrance of us** (μνείαν ἡμῶν... ἀγαθήν)—affectionate memory, not bitterness about Paul's departure
3. **mutual desire for reunion**—they longed to see Paul as he longed to see them.

This report brought immense relief: persecution hadn't destroyed faith, Paul's forced departure hadn't broken relationship, and the church thrived despite his

absence. Their persevering faith and love proved conversion's genuineness and the Spirit's sufficiency for sanctification.

## Historical Context

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Timothy's return to Paul (now in Corinth, Acts 18:5) probably occurred 6-12 months after Paul left Thessalonica. Paul had endured months of anxious uncertainty, fearing persecution destroyed the young church. Timothy's report was literally 'good news' (euangelion)—the gospel had taken deep root, producing persevering faith and practical love despite ongoing affliction. This validation of Paul's ministry brought joy comparable to conversion itself. The mutual longing for reunion demonstrates authentic Christian community transcending mere organizational affiliation.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How do faith and love together demonstrate genuine Christianity in ways neither alone would?
2. What evidence demonstrates that your Christian relationships are mutual and deep ('good remembrance... desiring greatly to see') rather than one-sided or superficial?
3. How does the report about distant believers bring you joy comparable to Timothy's report bringing Paul?

## Interlinear Text

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Ἄρτι	δὲ	ἐλθόντος	Τιμοθέου	πρὸς	ἡμᾶς	ἀφ'	ὑμῶν
<b>now</b>	<b>But</b>	<b>came</b>	<b>when Timotheus</b>	<b>unto</b>	<b>us</b>	<b>from</b>	<b>of your</b>
G737	G1161	G2064	G5095	G4314	G2248	G575	G5216
καὶ	εὐαγγελισαμένου	ἡμῖν	τὴν	πίστιν	καὶ	τὴν	ἀγάπην
<b>also</b>	<b>brought</b>	<b>us</b>	G3588	<b>faith</b>	<b>also</b>	G3588	<b>charity</b>
G2532	G2097	G2254		G4102	G2532		G26
ὑμῶν	καὶ	ὅτι	ἔχετε	μνησίαν	ἡμῶν	ἀγαθὴν	πάντοτε
<b>of your</b>	<b>also</b>	<b>that</b>	<b>ye have</b>	<b>remembrance</b>	<b>of us</b>	<b>good</b>	<b>always</b>
G5216	G2532	G3754	G2192	G3417	G2257	G18	G3842
ἐπιποθοῦντες	ἡμᾶς	ἰδεῖν	καθάπερ	καὶ	ἡμεῖς	ὑμᾶς	
<b>desiring greatly</b>	<b>us</b>	<b>to see</b>	<b>as</b>	<b>also</b>	<b>we</b>	<b>to see you</b>	
G1971	G2248	G1492	G2509	G2532	G2249	G5209	

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Corinthians 11:2** (Parallel theme): Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you.

**Isaiah 52:7** (Good): How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!

**Acts 18:5** (Parallel theme): And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ.

**Proverbs 25:25** (Good): As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.

**1 Thessalonians 1:3** (Faith): 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;

**Philippians 1:8** (Parallel theme): For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ.

