

2 Thessalonians 1:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

Analysis

We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth—Paul's thanksgiving is obligatory (opheilomen, ὀφείλομεν, 'we owe'). Their pistis (πίστις, faith) is **growing exceedingly** (hyperauxanei, ὑπεραυξάνει), a rare compound meaning 'super-growing,' used only here in the NT.

Their agapē (ἀγάπη, self-sacrificing love) **abounds** (pleonazei, πλεονάζει)—overflows beyond measure. Despite persecution, the Thessalonians' faith didn't merely survive but thrived. Each believer loved **every one**, not selectively. This commendation precedes Paul's stern correction in chapter 2, following the biblical pattern of affirmation before rebuke.

Historical Context

The Thessalonian church was young (perhaps only 1-2 years old) and faced relentless opposition. Paul's earlier ministry there lasted mere weeks (Acts 17:2). Yet their explosive growth in faith and love testified to the Spirit's power, not human wisdom or favorable circumstances.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. Is your faith 'super-growing' under pressure, or merely surviving?
2. How specifically do you demonstrate love to 'every one' in your church, including the difficult?
3. Why does Paul consider thanksgiving for believers' growth not optional but obligatory?

Interlinear Text

Εὐχαριστεῖν	ὀφείλομεν	τῷ	θεῷ	πάντοτε	περὶ	ὑμῶν
to thank	We are bound		God	always	for	of you
G2168	G3784	G3588	G2316	G3842	G4012	G5216
ἀδελφοί	καθὼς	ἄξιόν	ἐστίν	ὅτι	ὑπεραυξάνει	ἡ
brethren	as	meet	it is	because	growth exceedingly	
G80	G2531	G514	G2076	G3754	G5232	G3588
πίστις	ὑμῶν	καὶ	πλεονάζει	ἡ	ἀγάπη	ἐνὸς
faith	of you	and	aboundeth		the charity	one
G4102	G5216	G2532	G4121	G3588	G26	G1520
πάντων	ὑμῶν	εἰς	ἀλλήλους			
all	of you	toward	each other			
G3956	G5216	G1519	G240			

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 4:18 (Parallel theme): But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

2 Peter 3:18 (Parallel theme): But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

1 Thessalonians 4:1 (References God): Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.

2 Thessalonians 2:13 (Love): But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

Romans 1:8 (Faith): First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.

John 15:2 (Parallel theme): Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

1 Thessalonians 3:9 (References God): For what thanks can we render to God again for you, for all the joy wherewith we joy for your sakes before our God;

1 Peter 1:22 (Love): Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

Philippians 1:9 (Love): And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;