



# “Living Today, Longing for Tomorrow”

August 30, 2020

**1 Thessalonians 1:2-10**

**Part 2 of “Build to Last”**

Last week: 1 Thess 1:1 and Acts 17:1-9

V.6, “for you received the word in much affliction, **with the joy of the Holy Spirit.**”

*“Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with a willing spirit.”  
-Psalm 51:12*

**Joy in the every day is possible because:**

**1. God has \_\_\_\_\_ you. (1:2-4)**

1:2, Thankfulness, Prayerfulness, Remembrance

a. \_\_\_\_\_ of Faith

b. \_\_\_\_\_ of Love

c. \_\_\_\_\_ of Hope

1:4, Loved by God

2. God has \_\_\_\_\_ you. (1:5)

through the \_\_\_\_\_ (v.5)

- a. In \_\_\_\_\_
- b. In the \_\_\_\_\_
- c. With \_\_\_\_\_

3. God has \_\_\_\_\_ you. (1:6-10)

- a. To \_\_\_\_\_ the Word through you.
- b. To \_\_\_\_\_ the living and true God.
- c. To \_\_\_\_\_ firm until Christ's return.

**For Family Discussion**

This summer, we had a "Family Dinner Night" emphasis, and part of that was really to experience the **JOY** of the Lord together. What can your family do this week to experience the JOY of the Lord together? Consider a prayer time that includes:  
"We give thanks for \_\_\_\_\_"  
"We remember \_\_\_\_\_, (name a new or non-Believer).  
May he/she place their faith in Jesus.

## Discussion Questions

If you haven't yet (or again): grab a glass of water and a bowl of popcorn and read 1 & 2 Thessalonians in one sitting. Share your observations with your group.

**Dig Deeper:** Grab a good study Bible that has notes, a concordance, or a cross-reference system and study ideas, words, and themes from 1 & 2 Thessalonians deeper.

Paul, Silas, and Timothy seem to spend much time remembering what God is doing and who God is at work in, in their worship and prayers. Why might this be beneficial and important in our times of worship and prayers?

What are some ways in which conversion changes us?

What is the relationship between faith and good works in the life of a Christian?

Think of some common idols in our culture and in today's day and age. Pick one (that is perhaps the most tempting) and write it here: \_\_\_\_\_  
How does this idol compete with loyalty to Christ? Ask the Spirit to reveal its deception and defeat its power!

Christians sometimes don't really understand the significance of what God desires them to do with their lives once they are saved. Why is that??

How can you labor in love in the week ahead for some other believers?

What most captivates you about the gospel these days? How is this similar or different to when you first heard the gospel?

What do you think is necessary for dying churches across the Midwest to be revitalized? Perhaps consider the vitality of the Thessalonians' "Work of Faith and Labor of Love and Steadfastness of Hope in our Lord Jesus Christ" in your answer first. Then, consider what this might look like practically.

**This Week:** Joy is a fruit of the Spirit. Pay attention to the Joy in your life this week. What percentage of the time would you say you are joyful? Is your faith as contagious as the Thessalonians'?

### **Pray Together**

*Heavenly Father, thank you for the ways in which you powerfully impact lives for the gospel. Forgive us for where and when we have failed to acknowledge you. Holy Spirit, restore unto us the joy of thy salvation we ask in Jesus' name, in whose glorious return we eagerly await, Amen.*