

Embrace
Holy
Living

RE- FLECTING GOD

09/10/12 - Faith, Hope & Love

1 Thessalonians 1RG AUDIO 091012

Paul begins his letter to the church at Thessalonica by praising the people for their work produced by *faith*, labor prompted by *love*, and endurance inspired by *hope* (v. 3). The theme of faith, hope, and love are mentioned together throughout the New Testament (e.g., 1 Cor. 13:13; Eph. 4:2-5; 1 Peter 1:21-22). It is clear they are foundational to the Christian life.

Although we are saved by faith alone, our *faith* produces action. This action is the "work" of building God's kingdom. The building, or "labor," is prompted by *love*. Because of God's love, we are motivated to love and serve others. The perseverance to live and love for Christ is inspired by the *hope* we have in him. In light of this hope, we have the commitment to endure to the end, knowing that God is in control and we will someday live with him for eternity.

The people in the church at Thessalonica had endured persecution and remained faithful to Christ?just like Paul. They had imitated the life of Christ?-just like Paul. This imitation was characterized by faith, hope, and love. Today, may our lives reflect these same traits.