**To the Church of the Thessalonians**

The Holy Spirit works in the lives and in the Church for salvation and sanctification.

He convicts, transforms, guides, and empowers!

***“We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith***

***and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”***

***I Thessalonians 1: 2 & 3***

**WORK OF FAITH**

Encouragement:

* Imitators of us and of the Lord
* Received the Word in much affliction
* With the joy of the Holy Spirit
* Example to all believers

Exhortation:

* Be bold in declaring the gospel, be holy, righteous, and blameless
* Stand fast in the Lord
* Walk in a manner worthy of God
* Receive God’s Word in suffering

What are some differences between how believers respond to suffering and how non-believers respond to suffering?

How can we imitate Jesus and be examples to believers and non-believers?

**LABOR OF LOVE**

Encouragement:

* Turned to God from idols
* Serving the living and true God
* Taught by God to love

Exhortation:

* Abstain and control
* Walk in purity
* Love one another
  + Live quietly – Be cooperative
  + Mind your own affairs – Be responsible
  + Work in your hands – Be humble

Why are other believers sometimes the hardest to love?

Are there people in our lives who are hard to love or are we the hard ones to love?

**STEADFASTNESS OF HOPE**

Encouragement:

* Waiting for Jesus to return
* Ready for Jesus to return

Exhortation:

* His Kingdom is coming
  + Jesus’ resurrection assures that death is not the end.
  + Those who are asleep and those alive will be caught up together.
* Be fully aware
  + Don’t be surprised.
  + Walk as children of the light.
  + Keep awake.
  + Be sober.
  + Be ready.

How are we encouraging one another with these words?

If we knew Jesus was returning tomorrow, what would we do today?

**May we walk by faith, in love, with hope!**