

July 8, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

1 Thess. 1:3 *We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. (NIV)*

I love the picture that Paul paints here for us as Christians. He uses three key spiritual terms to point out active life in Christ. These three aspects are a result of living in the Spirit and allowing Him to replicate Himself through us. The first word is **faith** which in the Greek means *a confident trust and belief*. This faith produces the work that God has challenged us with. We are to be ambassadors to this world. We are to show them the way that God has purchased for them by His precious blood.

Secondly, Paul gives the motivation of the labor as being **love**. This is *agapes* which is the kind of love that puts others first and is giving and esteems others above themselves. What if we truly loved others in this manner? I believe they would be drawn to LORD by this very love. And lastly, we would do these things with endurance because of the **hope** that we possess in Jesus. The Greek word is *elpidos* which means *a sincere and great trust, expectation and confidence in the One Who has called us to Himself*. Paul had also mentioned these three facets of abundant life to the church in Corinth. **1 Cor. 13:13** *And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. (NIV)* Let us be faithful, hopeful and full of the love of the LORD as we reach out to the ones that we have influence with.

Dear LORD, help us to walk by *faith* in the blessed *hope* of Your great *love*. In Jesus Name, Amen