

Triumph Over Fear

I Thessalonians 1:1-10 (ESV)

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. ² We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. ⁹ For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

Understanding the end impacts how we respond in the present.

1. **We are freed from works righteousness, but we are not free from work.**

(I Thessalonians 1:2-5)

- We are not saved by works, but we are defined by our work.

What fuels our work and settles our fears?

1. Knowing we are securely loved and chosen by God.
2. Understanding that ultimately the Holy Spirit does the work.

- Trusting in God's sovereign control allows us to freely work.

2. **Our affliction and endurance serves as a megaphone to God's faithfulness.**

(I Thessalonians 1:6-8)

- God's people have two options: sit in fear or leverage our affliction.

Affliction/endurance is theme of Bible:

Luke 21:19 (ESV)

By your endurance you will gain your lives.

Romans 5:3-5 (ESV)

Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

2 Corinthians 1:6 (ESV)

If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer.

Colossians 1:11 (ESV)

May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy,

- In the Bible where affliction increased the gospel multiplied.
 - The more difficult the situation the more surprising the response.
3. **How we wait says a lot about whom we wait for.**
(I Thessalonians 1:9-10)