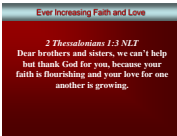


#1



Ever Increasing Faith and Love

2 Thessalonians 1:3 NLT Dear brothers and sisters, we can't help but thank God for you, because your ***faith*** is ***flourishing*** and your ***love*** for one another is ***growing***.

The Apostle Paul was thanking God for what he was seeing in the Thessalonian Church.

He was seeing real growth in their walk with God.

Their spiritual growth was evident in the increase of their faith and love.

He noticed their faith was growing exceedingly.

It was bearing fruit and growing.

This was an abundant, flourishing increase.

Faith in God is not static; it is always increasing or decreasing.

A growing faith indicates a growing Christian.

Growing faith is noticeable in obedience to the faith.

In 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10, he had encouraged them to love one another, as they had been taught by God to love.

Now he was seeing the evidence that both their faith and love was growing.

The spiritual growth of the Church is always related to bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God. (Colossians 1:10)

Your faith should keep growing.

As you trust God more consistently and more extensively, it will produce evidence that is noticeable.

Genuine faith in God is always accompanied by sincere love for others.

#2

Ever Increasing Faith and Love
James 2:14-17 NIV
What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food.

Listen to this very carefully.

James 2:14-17 NIV What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food.

#3

Ever Increasing Faith and Love
James 2:14-17 NIV
If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

➤ ***Click***

If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

True faith in God is always demonstrated by love in action and obedience to God.

In James 2:18-24, tells us that faith is good for nothing without accompanying works.

#4

Ever Increasing Faith and Love
James 2:26 NLT
Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works.

James 2:26 NLT Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works.

You need to study the relationship between love and faith.

Faith is the root and love is the fruit.

In the New Testament church, as their faith grew their love for each other kept increasing.

True faith always produces love.

Genuine love always produces actions.

This was an exceptional church.

They were full of faith in God, and that faith caused their love for one another to continue growing.

#5

Ever Increasing Faith and Love
 In John 15, Jesus indelibly linked the relationship of faith, love, and obedience.
 John 15:17 Jesus said: "This is my command: Love each other."

Faith will always put us in contact with God.

The very nature of God is love.

Whoever knows God knows love.

In John 15, Jesus indelibly linked the relationship of faith, love, and obedience.

Jesus was not interested in *mere* professions of faith in Him.

The Lord is clear that their relationship with Him would produce effectual prayer, celestial joy, and perpetual fruit.

That is why in John 15:17 Jesus said: "This is my command: Love each other."

John 14:15 NIV "If you love me, you will obey what I command.

John 14:21 NIV Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

#6

Ever Increasing Faith and Love
 John 14:15 NIV
 "If you love me, you will obey what I command."
 John 14:21 NIV
 "Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

#7

Ever Increasing Faith and Love
 John 15:10 NIV
 "If you obey my commands, you will remain in My love, just as I have obeyed My Father's commands and remain in His love."

John 15:10 NIV If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love.

The obedience of faith always draws us into actions of love.

Faith will always bring us into obedience.

People of faith are obedient to the command.

James told us that faith without works is dead.

The Lord Jesus Christ is looking for a specific response from us.

If we refuse to do what He told us to do it is dead and brings death.

#8

Ever Increasing Faith and Love
Romans 16:17 (NIV)
 I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites.

Romans 16:17-19 (NIV) I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites.

#9

Ever Increasing Faith and Love
Romans 16:17-19 (NIV)
 By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people. Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I am full of joy over you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil.

By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people. Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I am full of joy over you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil.

This is what the spirit of rebellion looks like.

It is rebellion against what the Lord has commanded us.

Rebellion in the heart will always be demonstrated against God and others.

It is not just an attitude that is against individuals.

This attitude is evil from the root.

It is the very opposite of faith in Jesus Christ.

It is the opposite of the commandment of love.

It is destructive to those who practice it and to those around them.

Paul told the Romans, everyone has heard about your obedience to the faith.

He was delighted over them.

So, he wanted them to be wise about what was good and innocent about what is evil.

He did not want their minds to be full of the evil that was bringing division and obstacles to the faith.

#10

Ever Increasing Faith and Love
When your faith is genuine your love will be real and sincere

Have you noticed that people who are full of rebellion in their heart want everyone to know all of the evil?

Everything changes when your heart is controlled by love and faith.

When your faith is genuine your love will be real and sincere.

In the middle of giving a mandate to love and prefer one another, is this definition of living the life of faith.

#11

Ever Increasing Faith and Love
Romans 12:9-13 (Amplified)
[Let your] love be sincere [to evil things]; hate what is evil [loathe all ungodliness, turn in horror from wickedness], but hold fast to that which is good. Love one another with brotherly affection [as members of one family], giving precedence and showing honor to one another.

Romans 12:9-13 (Amplified) [Let your] love be sincere (a real thing); hate what is evil [loathe all ungodliness, turn in horror from wickedness], but hold fast to that which is good. Love one another with brotherly affection [as members of one family], giving precedence and showing honor to one another.

#12

Ever Increasing Faith and Love
Romans 12:9-13 (Amplified)
Never lag in zeal and in earnest endeavor; be aglow and burning with the Spirit, serving the Lord. Rejoice and exult in hope; be steadfast and patient in suffering and tribulation; be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of God's people [sharing in the necessities of the saints]; pursue the practice of hospitality.

Never lag in zeal and in earnest endeavor; be aglow and burning with the Spirit, serving the Lord. Rejoice and exult in hope; be steadfast and patient in suffering and tribulation; be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of God's people [sharing in the necessities of the saints]; pursue the practice of hospitality.

When your faith is genuine your love will be real and sincere.

The Holy Spirit is speaking to the church about sincere love.

#13

Ever Increasing Faith and Love
The word for sincere is ἀνυπόκριτος;
It refers to sincere love:
2 Corinthians 6:6 (NIV) in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love
1 Peter 1:22 (NIV) Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love.

The word for sincere is ἀνυπόκριτος, an-u-pōk-ritōs.

This word sincere means without hypocrisy.

It is attached to several vital parts of the Christian life.

#14

Ever Increasing Faith and Love
The word for sincere is ἀσινεργός.
It refers to sincere faith:
1 Timothy 1:5 (NIV) The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.
2 Timothy 1:5 (NIV) I have been reminded of your sincere faith.

It refers to sincere love:

2 Corinthians 6:6 (NIV) in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in ***sincere love***;

1 Peter 1:22 (NIV) Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have ***sincere love*** for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.

It refers to sincere faith:

1 Timothy 1:5 (NIV) The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a ***sincere faith***.

2 Timothy 1:5 (NIV) I have been reminded of your ***sincere faith***

#16

Ever Increasing Faith and Love
The word for sincere is ἀσινεργός.
It refers to sincere wisdom:
James 3:17 (NIV)
But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

It refers to sincere wisdom:

James 3:17 (NIV) But the ***wisdom*** that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and ***sincere***.

It should be obvious to us that this is describing what the Christian life should be like.

Our faith, love, and wisdom should be sincere.

It will be revealed in the devotion we show to God and others.

#17

Ever Increasing Faith and Love
This kind of life is not an option for the believer

This kind of life is not an option for the believer.

As faith without works is dead, so love without works is dead.

The reality of our commitment to God is revealed in our obedience to Him.

Our obedience to God will be demonstrated by our love for one another.

It is impossible to escape this.

If you say you have faith, but you do not have works, your faith is in vain.

Faith will always bring works of love.

Our love for God will always be demonstrated by love to one another.

This God kind of love should consistently be exercised toward other believers.

#17

Ever Increasing Faith and Love
This kind of life is not an option for the believer.
Romans 12:9-10 (NKJV)
Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another

Romans 12:9-10 (NKJV) Let love be without hypocrisy. (Let love be sincere) Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love (have family affection for one another), in honor giving preference to one another

#18

Ever Increasing Faith and Love
This kind of life is not an option for the believer.
Philippians 2:3 (NIV)
Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

Philippians 2:3 (NIV) Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

#19

Ever Increasing Faith and Love
Paul is discussing the kind of attitudes that accompany the Christian life.
Romans 12:11 (NIV)
Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

Paul is discussing the kind of attitudes that accompany the Christian life.

When we are walking in obedience to our faith in Jesus Christ, we will consistently demonstrate these attitudes toward one another.

The key thought for us is found in Romans 12:11

Romans 12:11 (NIV) Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

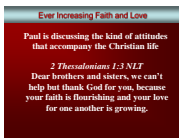
The practical application of this will always be a demonstration of faith in God and fervent love toward one another.

*Can you grow in your faith?
Can you grow in your love?
Can you grow closer to the Lord Jesus Christ?*

We have not arrived in our full development of faith or love.

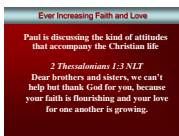
You can measure your obedience to Christ.
You can measure the growth of your faith.
You can measure the love in your heart.

#20



2 Thessalonians 1:3 NLT Dear brothers and sisters, we can't help but thank God for you, because your faith is flourishing and your love for one another is growing.

#21



We need ever increasing faith and love.