



Faith, hope and love

1 Thess 1:2-3

We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

ENDURANCE

Maori Proverb:

“Turn your face to the sun and the shadows fall behind you”

What keeps you going is the knowledge that there is always something better ahead.

Whatever fruit we experience - there is more 😊

2 Tim 4:7-8 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Paul had seen something that kept him going....

He looked at Jesus, followed him and lived in the Father's glory

Hebrews 12:1-2 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Jesus could see beyond the cross

Can we see beyond our struggles
and failures?

In Thessalonians Paul gives us the added ingredients to put our endurance into perspective:

Work produced by faith

Labour prompted by love

Endurance inspired by hope

Not putting them into balance, not the other side of the coin.

Our faith, hope and love is what motivates our endurance

Without them we have empty works

HOPE

An expectation and desire for a particular thing to happen

"You gotta have hope. Without hope life is meaningless. Without hope life is meaning less and less" Anon

"We must accept finite disappointment, but we must never lose infinite hope" Martin Luther King Jr.

Prov 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord and not in our own understanding

Psalm 37:3-4 Trust in the Lord and he'll give you the desires of your heart

There is more for us.....

Jacob wrestled with God (Gen 32:22-32)

~ he fears the future but he has a promise for it
so he struggles with God to ensure that the
promise overrides the fear

Don't trust someone without a limp - why?

Through their adversity they've held onto hope

Hope gives us a vision (it's the antidote to fear)

We need hope before we have faith, we need a longing and expectation in our hearts

It is the hope of something better that keeps us going and stops us becoming stagnant!

Rom 4:17 (...about Abraham)

As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed — the God who gives life to the dead and *calls things that are not as though they were.*

FAITH

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Confidence in what we hope for, it brings our destination into our present

Draws what we hope for towards us

“Faith is taking the first step even when you don’t see the whole staircase”
(Martin Luther King Jr)

“I have learned that faith means trusting in advance what will only make sense in reverse”
(Philip Yancey)

Faith is always about relationship

We trust someone bigger than
ourselves

We don't believe in **something** ~ we
believe in **someone**

Work, Labour and Endurance

These must be motivated by our hope
and faith

If they're not we start living for the 'now'
and that can lead us to be self centred

Default to our own strength and energy

1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have **heard**, which we have **seen** with our eyes, which we have **looked** at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.

An experience

Has to be in the context of relationship

John 15:9-10 (TPT)

I love each of you with the same love that the Father loves me. Let my love nourish your hearts. If you keep my commands, you will live in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands, for I am nourished and empowered by his love

This describes a relationship 😊

Jesus' yoke in Matthew 11 is one of relationship - it is not a burden, it does not trap us.

It frees us into who we truly are

If we lose sight of the relationship we end up in legalism, striving and religion

When 'stuff' happens (and it will) what are we going to do?

Do we give up or do we look beyond it?

Are we looking at - Work, Labour and Endurance

OR

Faith, hope and love

The greatest is love

***The love of the Perfect Father that
changes everything***