

Theme: As we respond to the Gospel with faith, love, and hope in Christ, it produces a harvest of work and endurance for God and His kingdom as we look forward to Christ's return.

I. Intro – Pando - The Quaking Giant

- A. Picture of Aspen Grove in Utah - 1 Tree
- B. Every tree is genetically identical - really stems
- C. 47,000 stems over 107 acres of land
- D. Average stem is 130 years old
- E. Estimated age of tree - 80,000 years!
- F. Massive root system sustains every part of tree
- G. The great importance of a good root system!

II. The Great Triad - Faith, Hope, and Love

- A. Paul's prayer uses the triad of faith hope and love
 - 1. Faith, love, and hope (1 Thessalonians 1:3)
 - 2. In the context of his prayer of thanks
 - 3. Remembering - he saw these in the Thessalonians
- B. Faith, love, and hope in Scripture
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 13:13 - most famous verse
 - 2. 1 Thessalonians 5:8 - same letter
 - 3. Colossians. 1:4-5 - same order
 - 4. Romans 5:2-4; Galatians 5:5-6; Ephesians 4:2-5
 - 5. Hebrews 6:10-12; 10:22-24; 1 Peter 1:21-22

6. This occurs in a lot of Scriptures!

7. Different orders and emphases - but often together

III. The Other Triad - Work, Labor, Steadfastness

- A. Another triad - work, labor, steadfastness
 - 1. Work - general term for serving God & others
 - 2. Labor - more nuance of difficult toil
 - 3. Steadfastness - endurance; perseverance (NIV)
- B. Labor and steadfastness point to opposition
 - 1. 1 Thessalonians 1:6 - severe suffering
 - 2. 1 Thessalonians 2:14 - suffered same things
 - 3. Can read about this in Acts 17
 - 4. 2 Thess 1:4 - persecution continued - they endured
- C. How do they work and persevere like this?

IV. Fruit - And Its Roots

- A. Three couplets
 - 1. Work of faith; labor of love; steadfastness of hope
 - 2. Is faith the work? Or root from which work grows?
- B. Roots and fruits
 - 1. Faith, love, and hope (F, L, &H) are roots
 - 2. Work, labor, steadfastness are fruits of F, L, & H
 - a. Best way to understand the genitive in the Greek
 - b. Most grammarians, commentators I consulted do

- c. NIV translation catches this
- d. Faith, love, and hope in Christ (v3)
- e. Colossians 1:4-5 - faith and hope in God

C. The importance of the root of faith, love, and hope

- 1. Rev. 2:2-4 - work, labor, endurance - but not love!
 - a. Same 3 Greek words - work, labor, steadfast
 - b. Only other place with work, labor, steadfastness
 - c. Right works - but no love! Must have the root!
- 2. Hosea 6:6 - steadfast love, not sacrifice; know God
- 3. Without proper roots, the fruit will wither and die

D. The soil for strong roots - the Gospel

- 1. 1 Thess 1:4-8 - Gospel; Word of the Lord
- 2. Colossians 1:4-6 - Gospel, bearing fruit
- 3. We must speak the Word of the Gospel to one another!

V. Applying the Word

A. Are our lives characterized by work, labor, steadfastness?

- 1. The Thessalonians were working for the Kingdom!
- 2. They were steadfast in face of persecution!
- 3. Does this characterize my life?
- 4. Am I willing to work and labor to serve - even persecutors?

B. Are my roots strong to produce this good fruit?

- 1. The key is not to grind it out - but have strong roots!

- 2. God calls us back to behold Him!
- 3. When we see Him - faith, love, hope!
- 4. Regular time in Word, prayer, fellowship is critical!
- 5. Only antidote to culture destroying fruit - strong roots!

C. Beholding Christ - at His Table - led by Jer

Gospel Fruit
 1 Thessalonians 1:1-3
 January 29, 2012
 Communion
 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

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. 1 Thessalonians 1:1–3

So now **faith, hope, and love** abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13

But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of **faith** and **love**, and for a helmet the **hope** of salvation. 1 Thessalonians 5:8

since we heard of your **faith** in Christ Jesus and of the **love** that you have for all the saints, because of the **hope** laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, Colossians 1:4–5

We continually 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. 1 Thessalonians 1:3 (NIV)

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, 1 Thessalonians 1:6

For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea. **For you suffered the same things from your own countrymen** as they did from the Jews. 1 Thessalonians 2:14

Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for **your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring**. 2 Thessalonians 1:4

We continually 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. 1 Thessalonians 1:3 (NIV)

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. 1 Thessalonians 1:1–3

since we heard of your **faith in Christ Jesus** and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the **hope laid up for you in heaven**. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, Colossians 1:4–5

I know your **works**, your **toil** and your **patient endurance**, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. 3 I know you are **enduring patiently** and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. 4 **But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first**. Revelation 2:2–4

For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings. Hosea 6:6

For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our **gospel** came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. ... 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, ... 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. 1 Thessalonians 1:4–8

since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, **the gospel, 6 which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you**, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, Colossians 1:4–6

16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, 17 comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word. 2 Thessalonians 2:16–17 ESV