

# Faith in What?

Grace Christian Fellowship  
March 7, 2010 Pastor Rose Brewer

## 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

<sup>2</sup> We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. <sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup> because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup> You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. <sup>7</sup> And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. <sup>8</sup> The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, <sup>9</sup> for they themselves report what happened when we visited you. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, <sup>10</sup> and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

***God the Father, God the Son,  
God the Holy Spirit, help us  
have faith in You.***

Looking at example of Thessalonians, did their faith make a difference? If so, what kind of faith did they have?

Pastor Kelly's been talking about having faith in the Trinitarian God (Father, Son & Holy Spirit). So what does that mean, what does that look like?

First...

**What does it NOT look like to have faith in God the Father/Son/Spirit?**

### Not faith in faith

- Not having faith in our ability to believe something with no regard of whether it's God's will or not.
- Not power of positive thinking.

### Not faith in superstition

- Not relying on an object – or something you do – to move the heavens.
- Not forwarding emails that say, “If you send this to eight people, you’ll receive blessings of...”

### Not faith in candy machine god

- Not faith in a god who is only there to serve us what we want.

### Not faith in Santa Claus god

- Not faith in a god who is there to give us what we want.  
*(picture of snowman, and then just blob of snow and carrot)*
  - Do I turn to him usually only when I want something?
  - God gives, but will I only be happy when he gives me what I want?
  - Will I still serve him when there's

no more snow or whatever else makes me happy?

### Not about me

- Not faith in a god inside me.

### Not faith in vague God

<sup>1-10</sup> John 5:20 We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

### Not fence-sitting faith

*Sit on ladder, both sides.*

- You can't hate your earthly brother or sister and then claim the pleasure of your heavenly Father.
- You can't sleep with the devil and then expect to walk with Jesus.
- You can't dabble in sin if you want to be baptized in the Spirit.

**What does it look like to have faith in Trinitarian God?**

Looking at example of Thessalonians, it's clear from the passage we read that their faith make a difference? Why? What kind of faith did they have?

<sup>1</sup> Thes 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.

<sup>4</sup> For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup> because our

gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction.

You know how we lived among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup> You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. <sup>7</sup> And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

<sup>8</sup> The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, <sup>9</sup> for they themselves report what happened when we visited you.

They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, <sup>10</sup> and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

### Faith in true God

<sup>1</sup> John 17:3 Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

### Faith in God who wants 100%

- Not just Sunday mornings, but letting him into your heart and thoughts and letting him transform and lead you 24/7.

### Praying to the God who hears & answers from his heart & will.

<sup>1</sup> Peter 5:6-7 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

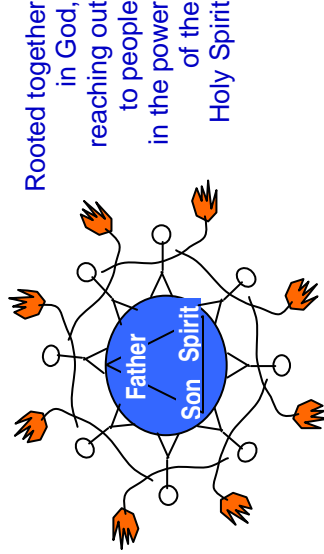
Video of Haiti. "Pray."

### Faith in God who transforms

- Real change happens when we worship Christ. Not just have vague faith, but kneeling before the feet of the Father/Creator who came to earth, Jesus our Lord and the transforming Holy Spirit.

### Faith about me, God & world

- Our faith is based on God's love for us... but not just for us. We believe in God who loves us and rest of the world.



### Faith in God we can know & serve together

<sup>1</sup> John 17:20-23 "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message... that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

### Radical Faith in a Radical Lord

"We can admire and worship Jesus without doing what he did. We can applaud what he preached and stood for without caring about the same things. We can adore his cross without taking up ours."

Shane Claiborne (*The Irresistible Revolution: Living as an Ordinary Radical*)

2 Peter 3:18

**But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.**

To go deeper... read **John 16 – 17**.