

Faith Under Pressure > 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4

1:1-2 *Gods church...* The church is God's idea for bringing about his eternal plans. That same church is Christ's bride, and therefore is the very blessing and community that every Christian needs.

1:3 *...transformed in Christ's image...* The Thessalonians are commended because they are growing in faith and love – and this is happening because of their dependance upon Jesus.

1:4 *...to be an encouragement.* The Thessalonian example of faith under pressure is an encouragement to other faithful Christians to hold firmly to God's gospel promises.

Background: Paul's second letter to the Thessalonians picks up and expands on a number of points that he introduced in the first.

The Point: God's people can endure with steadfastness and faith when they are transformed by Jesus.

Head: Know that persecutions and afflictions are not stronger than God's grace given to you. They are normal for every Christian living in this fallen world.

Heart: Believe that it is possible to endure such hardships – and to grow in faith and love in the midst of them!

Hands: How will you prioritize growing in faith this week? What will it look like for you to grow in your love toward fellow Christians in the days ahead? Make a plan that depends upon Jesus and put it into action.

Here is how I will apply these truths: _____
