

2 Thessalonians 1

Most people believe that the second letter to the Thessalonians was written 4 to 6 months after the first.

They were a strong and growing church, but as most newly converted Christians know, whenever God begins to encroach on territory once possessed by the enemy fights back. Sometimes its subtle but most of the time it is aggressive and relentless.

When God moves you forward, good things grow.

2 Thess 1:1 ESV Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: **2** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **3** We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because **your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.** **4** 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 Thess 1:5 NLT And God will use this persecution to show his justice and to make you worthy of his Kingdom, for which you are suffering.

Eph. 1:15-16 ESV For this reason, because I have heard of your **faith in the Lord Jesus** and your **love toward all the saints**, **16** I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers...

Gal. 5:6 NIUV For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is **faith expressing itself through love.**

Jesus reveals how faith and love work together: **John 13:34-35 NIV** "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. **35** By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

James 2:17 NIV 17 "... faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

2 Thess 1:4-5 NLT We proudly tell God's other churches about your **endurance** and faithfulness in all the persecutions and hardships you are suffering. **5** And God will use this persecution to show his justice and to make **you worthy of his Kingdom**, for **which you are suffering.**

When God moves you forward, there will ALWAYS be push back from the devil.

1 Peter 5:8 NIV Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Satan's Pushback Strategy:

- **Attack you with Persecution.**
- **Distract you with Bad Teaching.**
- **Agitate you with Flakey Christians.**

I love Paul's final prayer at the end of **2 Thess 1:11&12 NLT**. He prays for 3 things!

*So we keep on praying for you, asking our God to (1) enable you to **live a life worthy of his call.** (2) May he **give you the power to accomplish all the good things your faith prompts you to do.** (3) **12** Then the name of our Lord Jesus will be honored **because of the way you live**, and you will be honored along with him. This is all made possible because of the grace of our God and Lord, Jesus Christ.*