

And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe. 1 Thessalonians 2:13 (NIV)

Received

That is a very important word. What's that? **Received, is a very important word.** How so? **I will ask you a few questions to help you understand the importance of the word, received.** Go ahead, I'm listening. It is very good that you are listening. Here are my questions. **How are you receiving my word into your life? How has receiving my word into your life allowed me to use my word to work in your life? How have I used my word to change your heart, transform your mind and guide your life? How are your thoughts, words and deeds different because my word has been working in you? How has the entire course of your life changed because my word has been working in you? What will happen to your life if you do not continue to receive my word into it?** You have asked a lot of questions. **You can start answering them now.**

I will start by answering your first and last questions. **That's great.** I am meeting with your word. I have set apart a time and a place to meet every day with you in your word. I am meditating on your word day and night. I am letting your word dwell in me richly. **How so?** I am reading your word. I am studying your word. I am meditating on and memorizing your word. I am praying your word. I am proclaiming your word to others. I am taking a firm hold of your word so that it takes a firm hold of me. **What do you mean by that?** Well, in every way possible I am receiving your word into my life and then I am putting it into practice as I love, follow and serve you. **That is very good. What would happen if you didn't receive my word into your life and then put into practice?** That was your last question. **Yes, it was.** Your working in my life will be hindered and short circuited if I don't receive your word into my life and then put it into practice. **That's true.**

What kind of work has my word been doing in you? Your word has been changing my heart, transforming my mind and guiding my life. **How so?** Your word has broken me free from bondages that once entangled my life. Your word has made me able to stand against evil and resist temptation. Your word has given me new thoughts to think, words to speak and deeds to do. Your word has set me on fire to want to know and do your will. Your word has given me a passion to want to do what is pleasing to you. Your word has changed the entire course of my life. **Yes, it has. Keep on receiving my word into your life.** Yes Lord, I will. **That will be very good.**

Heavenly Father, thank you for your word. Daily I am receiving your word into my life. Use your word to do your work in my life. Use your word to change my heart, transform my mind and guide my life. Thank you for molding and shaping me with your word. Amen

Gratitude *Your Faith Is Growing*

We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing.

NIV 2 Thessalonians 1:3

Gratitude *Your Faith Is Growing*

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.

ESV 2 Thessalonians 1:3

Gratitude *Your Faith Is Flourishing*

Dear brothers and sisters, we can't help but thank God for you, because your faith is flourishing and your love for one another is growing.

NLT 2 Thessalonians 1:3

Gratitude *Your Faith Grows*

We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other,

NKJV 2 Thessalonians 1:3

Gratitude *Your Faith Is Growing*

We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of everyone of you for one another is increasing.

NRSV 2 Thessalonians 1:3

Gratitude *Your Faith Is Growing*

You need to know, friends, that thanking God over and over for you is not only a pleasure; it's a must. We have to do it. Your faith is growing phenomenally; your love for each other is developing wonderfully. Why, it's only right that we give thanks.

MSG 2 Thessalonians 1:3

Gratitude *Your Faith Is Growing*

We ought and indeed are obligated [as those in debt] to give thanks always to God for you, brethren, as is fitting, because your faith is growing exceedingly and the love of every one of you each toward the others is increasing and abounds.

AMP 2 Thessalonians 1:3

Gratitude *Your Faith Has Grown*

Dear brothers, giving thanks to God for you is not only the right thing to do, but it is our duty to God because of the really wonderful way your faith has grown and because of your growing love for each other.

TLB 2 Thessalonians 1:3

Gratitude *Your Faith Is Greatly Enlarged*

We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is only fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows ever greater;

NASB 2 Thessalonians 1:3

Gratitude *Your Faith Is Growing*

We must always thank God for you, brothers and sisters. This is only right, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love that every one of you has for each other is increasing.

NCV 2 Thessalonians 1:3

Your Faith Is Growing

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Gratitude – 2 Thessalonians 1:3

In Context: *Read 2 Thessalonians 1*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing. 2 Thessalonians 1:3 (NIV)

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

We ought | always to | thank God | for you, | brothers, | and | rightly so, | because | your faith | is growing | more and more, | and | the love | every one | of you | has for | each other | is increasing. 2 Thessalonians 1:3 (NIV)

Praying The Scripture:

(What prayer from your heart will you write?)

Lord, I will give thanks to you even when I am going through great difficulties in life. I know you are with me to help me in every situation. You will strengthen and encourage and lead me. You will cause my faith to flourish and love to grow as I follow you. Amen

What It Means:

(What questions speak to your heart?) *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

How has the Lord caused your faith to flourish as you have gone through great difficulties in life?

How has the Lord given you the strength to persevere through great difficulties in life?

Why does someone's faith flourish and another ones shrivels up under great difficulties in life?

Why are you able to give thanks to God even as you are going through great difficulties in life?

When have you been able to encourage others as they have gone through great difficulties in life?

How are you praying for others for others as they are going through great difficulties in life?

How has your love for others grown as you have come alongside them to help them in their difficulties?

Living It Out:

(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)

Allow the Lord to cause your faith to flourish and love to grow even through great difficulties in life.

Seeing It Happen:

(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)

Have faith that the Lord will cause your faith to flourish and your love grow even through great difficulties in life.

Get Ready To Share:

(What can you share with others from your heart?)

Share with another person or your small group how your faith has flourished even through great difficulties in life.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May your faith flourish and your love grow as the Lord helps you through every difficulty in life.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will rely on you to cause my faith flourish and love to grow as I go through difficulties in life.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how will you cause my faith to flourish and my love to grow as I go through difficulties in life?
