

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE SOURCE OF OUR STRENGTH  
Until He Comes | 1 Thessalonians — Week 1  
1 Thessalonians 1:1-3

**ICEBREAKER:** Do you think that all the major religions are fundamentally the same or different? Explain your answer.

**OVERVIEW:** The Christian life is very difficult; even impossible. Obedience to all of God's commands, all the time; having a Christ-like attitude in all circumstances; building God's kingdom and not your own; serving Christ in spite of persecution; dying daily and carrying your cross. Where do we get the strength and energy and motivation to live this way? It comes from God. It comes from the indwelling Holy Spirit. But more specifically, it comes from three gifts that God gives us when we get saved – faith, love, and hope. From these three the entire Christian life flows. As these grow, we grow more productive. As these come under attack and are diminished, we struggle. In this study we will go deeper with how to cultivate faith, hope, and love.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. This sermon was all about faith, love, and hope. When is the last time you heard a sermon focusing on these three together?
3. Of these three – faith, hope, and love – which do you think you understand the least? Explain.
4. Read Jeremiah 17:7-8. How does this passage define faith? What is the reward for faith? How does God bless us for our faith?

5. Read Proverbs 11:7. What is "hope placed in wealth"? What is the problem with placing your hope in the things of this world?
6. Read Mark 12:28-31. What is the greatest command? What does it mean to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength?
7. Refer back 1 Thessalonians 1:3 and Sunday's sermon. How does Paul describe a healthy Christian life? According to this threefold description, how healthy is your Christian life? Explain?
8. According to 1 Thessalonians 1:3, where do we get the strength for work, labor, and endurance? Define faith, love, and hope.
9. How can we protect and cultivate each of these: 1) Faith? 2) love? 3) Hope?

**The Last Word:** "The Christian's hope is the well-grounded expectation of future glory." *Matthew Henry*

