

The Love of God

2 Thessalonians 3:4-6

4 **We have confidence in the Lord concerning you**

DON'T MISS THIS IN CONFIDENCE IN YOUR OWN LIFE.

Why does Paul have this Confidence?

Because of the Faithfulness of the Lord (verse 3)

His Confidence is in the Lord!

Paul is talking about believers being strengthened by the Lord
(verse 3).

We must understand that

our souls are strengthened by our Confidence in the Lord.

We experience **SAD** (*Stress, Anxiety, Depression*) because we have Confidence in man, in others, or in self, or in circumstances, etc. But we have no Confidence in the Lord.

On the other hand,
we CAN experience Confidence
when our Confidence is in the Lord.

We have confidence in the Lord The perfect tense used here means that this is Paul's present state that started when he first arrived in Thessalonica.

1 ***We have the assurance of Eternal Life because our Confidence is in the Faithfulness of our Lord.***

2 ***The Lord gives us His assurance so that we might have Confidence in our daily lives.***

3 ***If our assurance is in the Lord, we receive Confidence in life.***

4 ***We can become depressed in life because we know we cannot Trust or put our Confidence in others, in self, but in that same circumstance we can put our Confidence in the Lord and we receive Peace in our Souls.***

5 ***It is so important for your daily lives to be aware of where your Confidence is:*** Philippians 3:3

3 **for we** (believers in JESUS CHRIST) **are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God** (in the Holy Spirit) **and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh,**

6 ***So where should our Confidence be?***

Hebrews 2:13

13 **And again, I will put my 'trust' confidence in Him**

2 Corinthians 3:4-5

4 **Such confidence we have through Christ toward God.** We are Confident in life toward or before our God and this Confidence is because of our position in Christ.

5 **Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as *coming from ourselves*, (Our Confidence is not in ourselves) **but our adequacy is from God**, (Our Confidence in our daily lives before God is from our relationship with His Son, Jesus the Christ.)**

2 Thessalonians 3:4

4 **We have confidence in the Lord concerning you, that you are doing and will continue to do what we command || instruct.**

What is the relationship between their Confidence in the Lord and how these believers will act?

They have Confidence about the conduct of these believers ***because of their relationship with the Lord.***

And the Lord, through or by means of His Spirit
will perfect [*or bring to maturity*]

WHAT HE BEGAN IN YOU

the day you believed in JESUS CHRIST as Savior

1 John 2:5

5 **but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. or made complete. By this we know that we are in Him:**

Question

How do we keep or obey His Word?

By Faith.

***By living by Faith in the Holy Spirit,
then the Love of God is perfected in us.***

2 Thessalonians 3:5

5 **May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the steadfastness of Christ.**

May the Lord direct your hearts

This is the rare *optative* mood, which introduces a wish, a desire, on Paul's part, that the Lord would direct their hearts into the Love of God.

We have seen this word used in a non-theological context in

1 Thessalonians 3:11

11 **Now may our God and Father Himself and Jesus our Lord direct our way to you;** But here it is God directing their hearts, which means He will do this from within.

Question

How does God direct our hearts?

By and through the Holy Spirit who Indwells every believer

John 16:13

13 **“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.**

So once again we come to the all important question

How are you empowered by God the Holy Spirit?

BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH IN THE HOLY SPIRIT.
BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH IN THE HOLY SPIRIT.
BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH IN THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Love of God Sounds like a wonderful phrase, but... what does it mean?

There are two aspects to the **LOVE OF GOD**:

First **The Love of God is received only in JESUS CHRIST**

Romans 8:39

39 **nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Second But we receive this Love of God only through the Holy Spirit:
Romans 5:5

5 **and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.**

Steadfastness of Christ

The Greek word here is our friend ***hupomone*** which refers to steadfastness or patience in regard to ***things or circumstances***, while ***makrothumia*** refers to patience of longsuffering (or long-tempered) in regard to others.

Obedience to His command can be met only by Divine Enablement.

Attitude and actions toward disorderly believers (verse 6-15)

2 Thessalonians 3:6-15

6 **Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us.**

7 **For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you,**

8 **nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we *kept* working night and day so that we would not be a burden to any of you;**

9 **not because we do not have the right *to this*, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, so that you would follow our example.**

10 **For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.**

11 **For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies.**

12 **Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread.**

13 **But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good.**

14 **If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person and do not associate with him, so that he will be put to shame.**

15 **Yet do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a Brother**

We all have a pretty good idea of what we are **not** to do to One Another;

we are **not** to steal from One Another;

we are **not** to lie to One Another;

we are **not** to judge One Another;

we are **not** to have immoral sexual relationships with One Another.

And the list goes on and on...

**BUT...WHAT ARE WE TO DO
WHEN ANOTHER BELIEVER DOES ANY OF THESE THINGS?**

WHAT ARE WE TO DO?

Before we look at what we are to do and not do when someone sins against us, let us first look at what our daily life should look like towards One Another, that is towards other believers in JESUS CHRIST.

**Whatever we do,
We should do it
AS UNTO THE LORD!**

Only when under the power of the Holy Spirit, can we expect to "imitate" Jesus Christ in our relationships with One Another.

	<i>Under the power of the Holy Spirit, we will...</i>	<i>Qualifier</i>	<i>Antonym</i>	<i>Scripture Reference</i>
1.	Love One Another	<i>As Jesus Christ loves you</i>	Hate - not emotion but evaluation [1John 2:9-11; 3:15, 4:20]	John 13:34-35; Rom 13:8; 1Thes 3:12, 4:9; 2Thes 1:3; 1John 4:7-12
2.	Serve One Another	<i>In Spiritual Love</i>	Thinking you are master and stand above others - superior; that you should be served by others.	Gal 5:13; 1Cor 9:19-24; Eph 6:7-8; Col 3:23-24; 1Sam 17:26 and 30; Heb 12:2
3.	Bear One Another's Burdens [brought on as a result of sin]	<i>In gentleness - as Jesus bore our burdens of sin</i>	To shake, stir up or render insecure	Gal 6:1-2
4.	Recognize that We Are Members of One Another	<i>In Jesus Christ</i>	Add to their burden	Rom 12:5; Eph 4:25
5.	Be Devoted to One Another	<i>In Spiritual Love</i>	Hardness of heart; callous	Rom 12:10
6.	Give Preference to One Another	<i>In an honorable manner</i>	give preference to your needs over their needs	Rom 12:10
7.	Think the Same Towards One Another	<i>As we are equal in Jesus Christ</i>	Believe we are better or superior over another	Rom 12:16; 1Cor 5:16-17
8.	Pursue Those Things Which Will Build Up One Another	<i>Edify their spiritual life - their relationship with God</i>	Destroy; tear down	Rom 14:19
9.	Be of the Same Mind with One Another	That is <i>thinking of</i>	Thinking of self alone	Rom 15:5
10.	Accept One Another	<i>Just as Jesus Christ accepted us</i>	To cast or send out; reject due to sins or failures	Rom 15:7

	<i>Under the power of the Holy Spirit, we will...</i>	<i>Qualifier</i>	<i>Antonym</i>	<i>Scripture Reference</i>
11.	Admonish One Another	<i>In Spiritual Love to return to Spirit Filled Life</i>	Lead astray into law; to judge them	Rom 15:14
12.	Greet One Another [with overt manifestation]	<i>In Spiritual Love</i>	Avoid, ignore; slander; blame or	Rom 16:16
13.	Wait For One Another	<i>In Spiritual Love</i>	Not waiting...with despair and no long suffering	1Cor 11:33
14.	Care For One Another	<i>When another believer hurts, sins, fails – recognize their need</i>	Neglect or overlook; have little regard for; despise - even judge	1Cor 12:25
15.	Be Kind to One Another [relieving pain from sin & testing]	<i>With the objective being their reconciliation w/God</i>	Unprofitable; useless... to their detriment	Eph 4:32; Rom 2:4; Matt 11:30
16.	Submit to One Another	<i>In reverence of Jesus Christ</i>	To lord over one another; to be	Eph 5:21
17.	Consider One Another More Important than Self	<i>Sacrificing yourself for their benefit w/the Lord</i>	Selfishness; empty conceit; boasting; disdainful pride	Phil 2:3
18.	Bear with One Another [regarding their sins against us]	<i>In Spiritual Love which <u>bears all things</u> ". . . just as God in Christ"</i>	Judge them; malign	Col 3:13; Eph 4:2; 1Cor 13:4, 13:7
19.	Forgive One Another [anything and everything]	<i>has forgiven you."</i>	To forgive "only" those sins we want to forgive them for	Eph 4:32, Matt 18:21; Matt 18:33; Col 2:13-14; Col 3:13
20.	Encourage One Another	<i>In the love of Christ, who encouraged His disciples by washing their feet and Giving them Communion</i>	Discourage; judge as not worthy of God's love or of being cleansed by God; not fit to serve. Judge rather than encourage.	1Thes 4:18, 5:11; Heb 3:13; Heb 10:25; Acts 11:23; Acts 14:20-22; 2Cor 2:7-8

	<i>Under the power of the Holy Spirit, we will...</i>	<i>Qualifier</i>	<i>Antonym</i>	<i>Scripture Reference</i>
21.	Be at Peace with One Another	<i>In the power of the Holy Spirit</i>	Bite and devour; challenge; attack instead of seeking reconciliation; Living by the law instead of Spiritual Love.	1Thes 5:13; Mark 9:50; Rom 8:6; 14:19; Heb 12:14; James 3:18
22.	Seek Good for One Another [restoration & service to God]	<i>Seek their good</i> <i>ALWAYS; pursue, go after</i>	Repay with evil; to seek revenge Defending self to the point of hurting others; seeking what is "bad" for them spiritually	1Thes 5:15; 1Peter 3:11; Rom 12:19-21; Psa 34:14
23.	Confess to One Another	<i>For healing and reconciliation</i>	Denial, remaining in a state of hostility, Refusing to pray for their good	James 5:16
24.	Pray for One Another [...especially when they have sinned against you!]	<i>For healing and reconciliation</i>		James 5:16; Eph. 6:18; Luke 22:31-32
25.	Stimulate One Another to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit by faith [so they too will love as Christ loved]	<i>As the Holy Spirit stimulates us</i>	To walk away from rather than encourage so they also are non- active in love; Judge them	Heb. 10:24
26.	Be Hospitable to One Another	<i>Without complaint, without grumbling</i>	Rude; thoughtless; hurting them; making them do without	1 Peter 4:7-10; Rom. 12:9-13; Heb. 13:1-2
27.	Be Humble towards One Another	<i>By the Holy Spirit...not by Law</i>	Arrogant, considering yourself to be better or more important than others	1 Peter 5:5
28.	Have fellowship with One Another	<i>Result of walking in the Light!</i> <i>Fellowship with the Holy Spirit!</i>	Selfish; alone! To separate yourself	1 John 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:9; Heb 13:16; 2 Cor. 13:14

**Whatever we do,
We should do it
AS UNTO THE LORD!**