

1Thessalonians:

A Life of Faith

Chapter 1: Grace and Peace

1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers,

3 remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, 4 knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God.

5 For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.

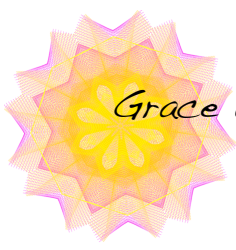
6 And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit,

7 so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe.

8 For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.

9 For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,

10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.



Grace and Peace

Hi and welcome to 1 Thessalonians: A Life of Faith. It is my prayer that through this Bible study series you will fall in love with studying the Scriptures, but more importantly, you will fall in love with Jesus!

Since we will be interacting heavily with the text, it is necessary to print each Bible study before beginning your study sessions. Pending on how much you like to doodle, you will also need colored pencils, pens and highlighters.

Before we begin any Bible study, it is always beneficial to start with prayer. Please take a few moments to ask God for forgiveness, receive His grace, thank Him for what He will teach you, and open your eyes by the power of the Holy Spirit to His truth. After you have prayed, please write your initials on the line: _____.

Please go back to page one and read Chapter 1 of 1 Thessalonians.

What two things does Paul confirm the Thessalonians have received from God (verse 1)?

Please draw a symbol above grace and peace on the page one. Below is an example of my work.

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:



Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the original Greek, the word "grace" (charis) means "kindness bestowed upon one who does not deserve it; God granting sinners pardon for their offenses and offering them salvation; a gift, a benefit, favor, reward."

How has God personally shown you His favor?

What gifts has He given you?

How has He shown favor to your family ... your career ... your ministry ... etc.?



Grace and Peace

Please read verse 1 again.

When God blesses us with something, He wants us to share the blessing with others—to pay it forward. Think for a moment about recent blessings you have received from God. Think outside the box. Aside from the usual material things, a blessing can be ... a revelation from God's Word, a victory over a long struggle, or an unexpected encouragement etc.

List your blessings below.

Name two ways you can share your blessings with others.

Please read verse 1 again.

In the space below, please write a definition for "peace."

Biblical peace does not mean a calm demeanor, a lack of strife or an absence of trials. The Greek word for "peace" (eirene) descends from the root word "eiro" which means "to join."

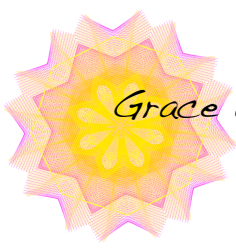
Why do you think "eirene" (to join) translates as "peace" in English?

Eirene also means, "the harmonized relationships between God and man, accomplished through the gospel."

What two groups have been "joined" together?

Man can live a peaceful life despite circumstances, because he has been "joined" to God by the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

According to the above definition, what is the key to "eirene"—being joined?



Grace and Peace

Now, please read verse 2 again.

How does Paul give thanks for the Thessalonians?

Please go back and mark "prayer" with a symbol of your choice. Mine is shown below.



2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers,

Paul, most likely did not personally know each believer in Thessalonica, but he still felt a responsibility to pray for them and their ministry. Actually, the meaning behind the name "Thessalonica" may give a clue as to the contents of Paul's prayers for the Thessalonians. In the original Greek "Thessalonica" is spelled "Thessalonikeus." Study the word for a moment. Do you see a common tennis shoe brand hidden within the letters? "Thessalonica" means "victory of falsity."

What prayer might Paul have prayed for the Thessalonians?

Only with God can a church of truth thrive in a city of falsity. Can you relate? Go back and draw a symbol for a church above the word "church" in verse 1.

Over what false beliefs has God given you victory?

Part of living a life of faith is replacing lies with truth. Over the next few days, pray and ask God to reveal any other false beliefs you are holding on to. Also, ask God to show you if **you** are speaking any false words into your life. Replace the false words with God's truth. The more truth we have, the more peace and grace we will have.



Grace and Peace

Thank you for joining me today for Bible study. Walk in His peace.

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