

**Portrait of a Healthy Church**  
Ben Joseph • December 28, 2025

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Q: What are the qualities you look for in a Church?

Q: How do you measure a Church?

-Paul commended the Church in Thessalonica.

1. **THEY HAD AN \_\_\_\_\_ FAITH:** v.3b  
“Your work produced by faith.”

-Eph. 2:8-10

-v. 5: “Because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction.”

-v. 8: “The Lord’s message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere.”

A. A tree is known by the fruit it produces (Matthew 7:16-20)

B. It is possible to be “in Christ” without “being of Christ” (John 15:1-10)

C. Our vertical relationship with Christ must manifest itself in our horizontal fruit bearing (John 15:8)

2. **THEY HAD An \_\_\_\_\_ LOVE:** v. 3c  
“Your labor prompted by love.”

-1 John 4:7-12

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3. **THEY HAD A \_\_\_\_\_ HOPE:** v. 3d  
“Your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- Hope during religious persecutions
  - Hope amid physical challenges (2 Cor. 4:16-18)
  - Rejoicing during sufferings is a great testimony and witness to nonbelievers (vs. 6-7)

**Reflections Questions:**

1. Faith, love and hope—How do you see your faith, love and hope actively producing “work,” “labor,” and “endurance”?
2. How do you live out the gospel, and what visible marks of Christ’s change are evident in your life?
3. In what ways are you being a model of Christ to others?

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