

“Faith Of Our Fathers”
1 Thessalonians 2:7-12
Father’s Day, June 21, 2015

40% of the children in America are going to bed every night without their biological Father in the home.

1 Thessalonians 2:7-12 – The context of this passage is not specifically addressing the Family, Mothers, and Fathers. Rather, it is Paul writing to the Church of Thessalonica as an encouragement as a “Spiritual Parent”.

1 Thessalonians 2:7,11

Paul is saying that his ministry to the believers of Thessalonica was much like being a Parent.

Thought Of Our Passage: Both Church And Family Need Tender Loving Care Through Leadership That Is Transparent, Sacrificial, And Blameless.

6 Characteristics Of The Faith Of Our Fathers:

1. Verse 7 – A Faith That Is Gentle:

1 Thessalonians 2:7b

“gentle” – “to be mild, to be kind; is an old word to keep warm, to cherish with tender love, to foster.”

1 Peter 2: 1-3

Ephesians 6: 4

“but bring them up” – “to nourish up to maturity, to nurture, to feed in friendliness, gentleness”

Ephesians 5:29

Galatians 5:22-23

Great Strength Under Control.

2. Verse 8 – A Faith That Is Loving:

1 Thessalonians 2:8

“fond affection for you” – (KJV “affectionately desirous of you”) This Greek word – “derived from the language of the nursery, a term of endearment.”

Fathers need to love, and it is not only Fathers, but also all true Children of God.

1 John 3:10-11

1 John 3:14

1 John 3:16

A Father that truly loves imparts the message of love/truth, the Gospel of God to the children.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

The Genuine Love Of A Father Is Demonstrated Through Discipline: (Training)

Proverbs 13:24

Proverbs 19:26

Proverbs 22:15

Proverbs 23:13-14

Proverbs 29:15

Proverbs 30:17

Proverbs 12:1

3. Verse 8 – A Faith That Is Transparent:

1 Thessalonians 2:8

Fathers, share the Gospel of love/truth with children through Love/Discipline, but also through how they Behave!

Transparency means that our children can see not only the good things about us, but also some of the negative things as well. It is important because all of these are learning experiences.

Children Tend To Repeat What They See.

If a child grows up never seeing his Father humble himself before the Lord in prayer, never reading his Bible, and griping about attending worship then the child thinks that this is the way a man is supposed to live his life.

Exodus 20:4-6

4. Verse 9 – A Faith That Is Hardworking:

1 Thessalonians 2:9

“For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship,” – Paul was transparent, he was on display!

2 Corinthians 12:14

1 Timothy 5:8

“we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.” – All to get the message out!

5. Verse 10 – A Faith That Is Holy:

1 Thessalonians 2:10

“how devoutly” – “holy, pious, being pleasing to God, carefully fulfilling the duties God gives to a person.”

Holy – “one thing, to be whole, or complete.”

“and uprightly” – “righteous in our dealings with our neighbors.”

“And we were blameless.” – “our public reputation”; What we are accused of will not stick! Baseless!

Paul’s Walk: “we behaved toward you believers;” – Paul publicly lived out His message.

6. Verses 11-12 – A Faith That Is Encouraging:

1 Thessalonians 2:11

Paul’s Words: “we were exhorting” – “to call to one’s side, to correct, to instruct.”

“and encouraging” – “to calm and console”

“and imploring” – “be a witness to”; Paul used his own experience to encourage them in the things of God!

1 Thessalonians 2:12

“worthy” – “to balance, to weigh the same”

God created man in His own image. God the Creator has placed within every man the design to create something.

When God created us, He created us with the idea that we would grow. 1 Corinthians 13:11

Application:

1. Being Gentle And Loving Is Not A Sign Of Weakness But Great Strength Under Control.
2. Being Transparent Is Not The Absence Of Difficulties But It Is The Modeling Of Faith In God In Good And Difficult Times.
3. Working Hard In Order To Serve Others, And Holy Blameless Living Is What The Bible Calls In 1 Thessalonians 2:12 “walking in a manner worthy of the God who calls you”; Balancing What We Know With What We Do.