

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

2 Thessalonians

These questions are for the **January 24, 2016** sermon, "Boasting About You." Please read the sermon passage (2 Thessalonians 1:1-4) together out loud.

Sermon Outline:

When trials come our way, express thanks to God for . . .

1. **The blessings of Salvation** (2 Thessalonians 1:1, 2)
 - A. If you are "in God," that is your eternal zip code--no matter how hard life becomes.
 - B. Being "in God" is your highest and greatest identity, and gives you strength to face hardship.
 - C. Note that "grace" (belonging to God) comes before "peace." Many want peace without God.
2. **The growth of faith** (3a)
 - A. Always thank God for your brothers and sisters in Christ.
 - B. Our relationships with God's people are treasured as we grow through trials together.
 - C. Chrysostom's life motto: "Praise God for all things."
3. **The increase of love** (3b)
 - A. Love increases as we care for one another through trials.
 - B. People flourish in the midst of faithful love.
4. **The examples of perseverance** (4)
 - A. Take note of and thank God for people who are faithful in trials.
 - B. Note the important prepositions: We who are "IN GOD" will be preserved in trials by the grace which comes "FROM GOD," even while we are offer thanks "TO GOD" for everything because we are the church "OF GOD."

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Note that the eternal identity, or eternal "zip code" of those in Christ is that we are "in God." This gives us an immovable source of joy no matter how hard life becomes. Discuss how the blessings of salvation remain no matter what trial you endure.
2. Based on #2, above: Trials can bring growth to our Christian brothers and sisters--and this growth in faith is a great reason for thankfulness. Discuss how trials within your Life Group have provided opportunities for growth which would not have come without the trial. Are you growing? Are you thanking?
3. Based on #3, above: People who stay with one another through trials are showing unconditional love. How has the love of your Christian brothers and sisters caused you to flourish in spite of your trial? Paul sees this and expresses it in word. To whom should you express your heart of love and thankfulness this week? Would you write them a letter? Call them? How will you express your heart of thanks?
4. Discuss Gary's "Top Ten" description of faithful love in the body of Christ:
 1. Sacrificial, not "me first."
 2. Willful, not merely emotional.
 3. Cross-centered, not trendy definitions.
 4. Serves others needs, not my own wants.
 5. Genuine, not superficial.
 6. Permanent, not temporary.
 7. In relationship with others, not in isolation.
 8. Unnatural (and learned!), not simply "natural."
 9. Required, not optional.
 10. Shaped in church fellowship, not apart from.