Grace Assembly Of God

CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER BIBLE READING DEVOTIONAL

Scripture:	**1 Thessalonians 1**	Title:	**Faith, Love and Hope**

Author	Ps Larry Lee
Introduction/ Summary of Chapter	Paul founded the church in Thessalonica on his second missionary journey. He was only in the city a short time because he was forced out by enemies of the Gospel. Yet the church continued to be alive and active even though they faced persecution. Though Paul had to suddenly leave this young church, his deep concern for the believers prompted him to write this letter.

Key Verse(s) NLT	How does it speak to me?
1 Thess.1:2-3 *We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.*	These scripture verses reminded me about how Grace Assembly was not in an ideal circumstance in 2020. We were adversely affected by the co-vid19 pandemic. The entire staff team and many of our leaders were served with quarantine notice. We were not able to meet one another physically. We were not able to respond to any immediate needs of our church members. We were the first virus cluster as a religious institution reported in Singapore. I felt that it was probably the worst hour for the church. Then I saw the amazing works of the Holy Spirit happening in the lives of our fellow Gracians! I saw faith at work amongst the Gracians! They began to rally together to intercede for the staff members and the church almost daily! We started to receive testimony after testimony of how our members began to reach out to those families who were served with quarantine notice. They bought food and groceries to encourage the families. I saw loving deeds carried out by our Gracians. Some of them went further by reaching out to the elderly and needy in their communities. They extended help to serve the foreign workers staying in the dormitories! They represented the Gospel brought hope to the least, the lost and the lonely during this time! I was moved by what I heard, like Apostle Paul who wrote to the church in Thessalonica. We are not fully out of the woods yet, but I saw the amazing works of the Holy Spirit as we put our faith at work. When our practical help is motivated by our love for God, people are touched by His power! We spend less time worrying about the pandemic and bring hope to others. Finally, we must stay focused on God's missions and not be distracted by any hardship that may come our way. It is during those hardship moments where our faith in God can be further strengthened.

APPLICATION REFLECTIONS	
Adult:	Do you know someone who is currently facing a crisis or hardship? How can you share your faith, love and hope in Christ then?
Youth:	Do you know someone who is a young Christian who needs encouragement in his/her faith? Besides prayer, what else can you do to build up his/her faith?
Child:	Do you find it difficult to believe in God when you cannot see Him? Discuss with your parents on this and ask them to share with you on why they believe that God is real.

P R A Y E R	
Praying Scripture:	Lord Jesus, thank You for everyone who have tuned in to our daily devotion. We stand in awe of how You have led and guided the church during this pandemic. We know that it may take a while before this pandemic will come to pass but we want to focus our eyes and energy upon You. We want to obey what You tell us to do so that people will be touched by your power through us! Lord we choose to focus on our eternal hope and give every Gracian the wisdom and grace to overcome any hardship that comes our way in Jesus' Name! Amen!
Thanksgiving:	I/We thank You for _____ (e.g. delicious food we ate, places we went, prayer answered, etc.)
Intercessory Prayer:	I/We want to pray for _____ (e.g. healing of sickness, family members, work or study, leaders, nation, etc)
Salvation Prayer:	I/We pray for the salvation of my/our unsaved loved ones _____ (add one name per day). In Jesus' Name I/we pray. Amen.