



Grace Assembly Of God

CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER BIBLE READING DEVOTIONAL

Scripture:	2 Thessalonians 1	Title:	Rediscovering Faith & Love
Author	Ps Benjamin Wong		
Summary of Chapter	This chapter started with Paul's encouragement to the Thessalonian believers amid the persecution they were facing. Paul was encouraged by their faith in God and love for one another. He reminded them of God's judgment for those who reject Him. Paul ended by praying for them to continue their good works.		

Key Verse(s) NLT	How does it speak to me?
<i>³ Dear brothers and sisters, we can't help but thank God for you, because your faith is flourishing and your love for one another is growing.</i>	<p>Paul was thanking God for the Thessalonian church in their growing faith in God and their deepening love for one another. Paul summed up the essence of the Christian life – faith & love. Faith towards God and love towards man. Faith and love are our responses to God's grace in our lives. As I reflected on my journey amid the pandemic, I realized I have also rediscovered faith and love in my spiritual life. Faith is being the confident in our Abba Father's ability to meet all our needs. Love is the motivation to fulfill Christ's command to love one another deeply. Faith says, "God cares for me even amid this ongoing pandemic". Love says, "God can use me to meet the needs of others during this difficult time?"</p> <p>In the initial period of the pandemic, I was struggling each day to get enough energy to work. I was wondering when we could return to normalcy. Honestly, it affected my faith to trust God. I am sure there were others facing these same sentiments. I know of people who burned out and falling into depression. One day while I was praying in desperation, God directed my attention to the bicycle I bought just before the pandemic hit. I started using it to get out of my house, to ride, to exercise, to feel the breeze. It worked for me. It rejuvenated me each day. It was then that I realized that God demonstrated the extent of His care for me. He has prepared this bike in advance for me, knowing that I would need it to restore my mental and spiritual well-being. In that moment I rediscovered faith; the faith to continue to trust in our loving Abba Father for the rest of my journey in this pandemic. I also rediscovered the love to reach out to others in need. Since then, I have been sharing this rediscovery of faith and love to those who are still struggling.</p> <p>The battle is not over. But surely, we have the confidence that the rediscovery of our faith and love will continue to propel us forward and help us to emerge stronger in our Lord.</p>

APPLICATION REFLECTIONS

Adult:	What was most difficult for you in upholding your faith in God and love for others in this pandemic? Pray to God to rekindle your faith and love in Him.
Youth:	Engage in an activity that helps you draw close to God, e.g cycling, jogging, singing, nature walk, etc?
Child:	Write a love letter/card to God to tell God why you love Him OR to your loved ones to encourage them in this pandemic.

PRAYER

Praying Scripture:	Dear heavenly Father, if my faith has been shaken and my love is wavering during this difficult time, let me once again rediscover faith and love in You.
Thanksgiving Prayer:	I/We thank you for _____ (e.g. delicious food we ate, places we went, prayer that was 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.