

Study Guide

Steadfast 1:4-10

Big Idea: God's love has deep implications

1. "For we know, brothers loved by God, ..." (1 Thess. 1:4a). What is your expectation when you hear that God loves you? What might be some of the deeper implications if God really loves you?
2. Read 1 Thess. 1:4-6a. Notice the sovereign involvement of God around the Thessalonians finding Christ? How does it make you feel to know that God was involved in your process of finding Him? What are the implications of the idea that God uses people to reach people?
3. Watch the following video:
<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/illustration/98658>
How is God working in your life to increase your vision of what it means to be loved by God and to become love for others?
4. Read 1 Thess. 1:6b-10. How might God's love for you include "afflictions"? What does God provide for us in the midst of our trials? Why would God allow "afflictions" in our lives? Discuss the concepts that afflictions push me (as a witness) and they purge me (from idols).
5. As we "wait for His Son..." (v.10), would you say you are:
 - a. Determined
 - b. Discouraged
 - c. Distracted
 - d. Disillusioned

Application

Spend some time praying through your responses, and ask God to help you understand the full extent of His love with all its implications.

Message Slides

Steadfast

Big Idea: God's love has deep implications.

I. Loved (v.4a)

"For we know, brothers loved by God, ..."

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II. Chosen (v. 4b-6a)

"For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, ^sbecause our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. ^eAnd you became imitators of us and of the Lord..."

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A. "Chosen" involves mystery

Rom. 8:29- "For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son..."

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God's Desire

1 Tim. 2:4 "...who desires all people to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth."

2 Pet. 3:9 "... He is... not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."

Matt. 11:28 – "Come to me all..."

Acts 17:30- "He commands all people everywhere to repent..."

Rom. 10:13- "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Rev. 22:17- "Whoever is thirsty let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life..."

Our Human Condition

Gen. 6:5 – "The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time."

John 5:40 – "Yet you refuse to come to me..."

Acts 7:51- "You stiff-necked people; you always resist the Holy Spirit."

Rom. 3:10+18 "No one is righteous, understands, seeks God, ...; no fear of God before their eyes..."

"Chosen" involves miracle! (v.5a)

“For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord...”

“Chosen” involves messengers (v.5b-6a)

“For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord...”

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God chose Israel to be a light.

1 Kings 3:8- “And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude.”

Isa. 49:6b- “I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth.”

God chose His Son to be the light.

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him will not perish, but have everlasting life.”

God chose NT believers to be a light.

2 Thess. 2:13b-14a ...God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, ... “To this he called you through our gospel, ...

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III. Afflicted (v.6b-10)

“...for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit,

A. Affliction Pushes me (v.6b-8)

“...for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything.

B. Affliction Purges Me (v.9-10)

⁹For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.”

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