

We ought to thank God always for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, since your faith is flourishing and the love each one of you have for one another is increasing. Therefore, we ourselves boast about you among God's churches – about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and afflictions that you are enduring.

1. We Owe a Debt of Gratitude (3)

- _____ - speaks of financial indebtedness; to owe money or to be in debt.
- “One of the best weapons for fighting Satan is praise.” – Warren Wiersbe
 - This young church was dealing with _____ and _____ due to afflictions and persecution.
- _____ - to be grateful, to express gratitude towards; to say grace at a meal.
 - This is the same Greek word used in Luke 22:17 and Luke 22:19 when Jesus “gave thanks” as He observed the first Communion with the Twelve.
- _____ - moral conviction of religious truth or the truthfulness of God.
- _____ - to increase above ordinary degree; to grow wonderfully and continually.
 - The storm that doesn't _____ the tree _____ its roots.

2. We Have Plenty to Brag About (4)

- _____ - because of the facts laid out above, the following is true.
- _____ - cheerful endurance, constancy.
 - The believers in Thessalonica had plenty of reasons to _____, but they _____ instead.
 - The same word is used to refer to the way Jesus persevered through all that He went through on earth: 2 Thessalonians 3:5
- _____ - to hold oneself up against; to put up with.
- “Believers have won the race by their faith relationship with Christ. Now they must run the race for Him in faithfulness. Gratitude, not required performance, drives the Christian to godliness.” – Bob Utley