

GOSPEL TRIO

Scripture Reading: Read 1 Thessalonians chapter 1

For those who became Christians over 25 years ago, you probably know the 2nd Chapter of Acts. No, not the chapter in the Bible. The contemporary Christian music group composed of siblings Annie Herring, Nelly Greisen and Matthew Ward. They began performing in 1973 and enjoyed a fifteen year career, disbanding in 1988. If you ever heard them sing you know how tight and intricate the harmonies of this gospel trio were.

Paul introduces us to another gospel trio in our chapter reading today. Like the 2nd Chapter of Acts, these three “singers” have their harmonies intertwined. *“We continually 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.”* Over in 1 Thessalonians 5, they “play” again: *“But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on **faith** and **love** as a breastplate, and the **hope** of salvation as a helmet.”* It’s obvious Paul enjoyed listening to the “music” of this gospel trio. They’re mentioned in Paul’s prayer for the Colossians in the 1st chapter: *“We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints-- the **faith** and **love** that spring from the **hope** that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel that has come to you.”* Unlike the 2nd Chapter of Acts gospel trio which disbanded, however, the faith, hope and love trio will never stop singing God’s praise according to 1 Corinthians 13:13: *“And now these three remain: **faith, hope and love...**”*

Let’s take a look at each of these “singers” for a moment:

- 1) **Faith** – According to the writer of Hebrews, *“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”* Notice how faith “sings” with hope. Faith is not just belief but trust that acts on God’s Word.
- 2) **Hope** – Not a whistling in the dark that the sun will come out tomorrow hope against hope but expectant faith and trust that God will do what he promised he would do
- 3) **Love** – A choice to act in the highest interest of the one loved. Love “sings” with faith and hope but love takes the lead because *“If I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.”*

Action Step: If you get a chance, hop on youtube on your computer, look up 2nd Chapter of Acts, and listen to them sing the “Easter Song.” You won’t be disappointed. Let this musical trio serve as a reminder of an even more important gospel trio...faith, hope and love.

Prayer Focus: That the Lord might let your faith in Him stir your work for Christ, your love for Him motivate your labor on behalf of Christ, and your hope in Him empower your endurance to stand faithful and persevere in Christ.

Take-a-way: ***The gospel trio of faith, hope and love will never stop “singing” God’s praise.***