

Philemon 5 (NKJV): 5 hearing of your love and faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints,

Ephesians 1:15–16 (NKJV): 15 Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:

Colossians 1:3–5 (NKJV): 3 We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of **your love for all the saints**; 5 **because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven**, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel,

Hebrews 6:10 (NKJV): 10 For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

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John 13:34,35 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 15:12 (NKJV): 12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

John 15:17 (NKJV): 17 These things I command you, that you love one another.

1 Thessalonians 1:1–5 (NKJV): 1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers,
3 remembering without ceasing your work of faith, **labor of love**, and **patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father**,
4 knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God. 5 For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.

Matthew 24:12 (NKJV): 12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

James 2:14–17 (NKJV): 14 What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? 17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

Here the Host Spirit, through James is show the correct way of operating

Faith working through love

Hebrews 6:9–12 (NKJV): 9 But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner. 10 For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. 11 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, 12 that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience **inherit the promises**.

Matthew 25:31–36 (NKJV): 31 “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. 33 And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’

Matthew 25:37–40 (NKJV): 37 “Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 38 When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? 39 Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ 40 And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’

To the angel of the church in Smyrna

Revelation 2:8 (NKJV): 8 “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, ‘These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:

First and the Last

John 1:15 (NKJV): 15 John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.’ ”

Colossians 1:16–17 (NKJV): 16 **For by Him all things were created** that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 **And He is before all things**, and in Him all things consist.

Isaiah 44:6 (NKJV): 6 “Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: **‘I am the First and I am the Last;** Besides Me there is no God.

Micah 5:2 (NKJV): 2“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.”

John 1:1–3 (NKJV): 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

According to biblical encyclopedias Smyrna was inhabited 3000 years before Christ. They survived for many years by foreseeing the approaching ruling power and aligning with it. When they saw the rise of Roman rule they formed religion in its honor and even built a temple in honor of the Roman emperor and started the Caesar-cult, which inflicted hardships on the church in the latter half of the first century.

James 1:12 (NKJV): 12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

Hebrews 1:12 (NKJV): 12Like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not fail.”

Hebrews 13:8 (NKJV): 8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

(John 13:34, 35; 15:12, 17; 1 John 3:11, 14–18; 4:7, 8, 11, 20, 21).