


**FEELING THE PULSE...  
SPIRITUAL PROGRESS  
IN CHRIST?**

Colossians 1:3-8



### Feeling the pulse... spiritual progress in Christ?

- Colossians 1:3-8

We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, for the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth: as ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellowservant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit.

### Feeling the pulse... spiritual progress in Christ?

- Colossians 1:3-4

We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints,

2 indicators: faith in Christ & love for believers


### Feeling the pulse... spiritual progress in Christ?

- Experience the present reality of spiritual progress in Christ
  - Display continuing faith in Christ

### Feeling the pulse... spiritual progress in Christ?

- Colossians 2:5

For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order (discipline), and the steadfastness (stability) of your faith in Christ.



**Why, God?**

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Job 1

### Feeling the pulse... spiritual progress in Christ?

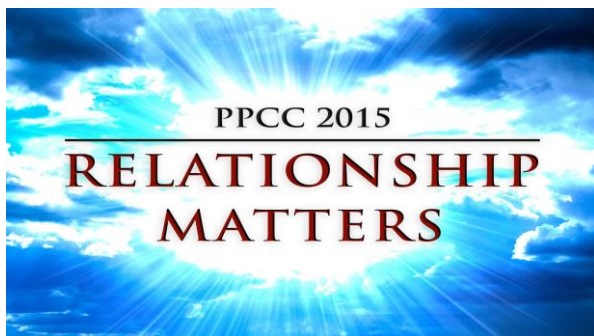
- Experience the present reality of spiritual progress in Christ
  - Display continuing faith in Christ
  - Display love towards all believers



### **LOVE ONE ANOTHER**

- John 13:33-35

Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come: so now I say to you. A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another: as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.



### Feeling the pulse... spiritual progress in Christ?

- 1 John 3:14-18

We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.... Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

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which springs from the hope of heavenly inheritance in Christ alone.

Feeling the pulse... spiritual progress in Christ?

- Colossians 1:3-5

We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, for (because of /on account of) the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;...

Feeling the pulse... spiritual progress in Christ?

- Colossians 1:5

(because of / on account of / spring from) the **hope** which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;...

Hope = settled confidence

Feeling the pulse... spiritual progress in Christ?

Hope in Christ



Faith in Christ + Love toward all the saints

Feeling the pulse... spiritual progress in Christ?

- Colossians 3:2

Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Feeling the pulse... spiritual progress in Christ?

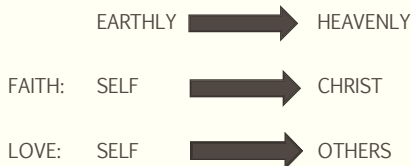
	EARTHLY	➔	HEAVENLY
FAITH:	SELF	➔	CHRIST
LOVE:	SELF	➔	OTHERS

Feeling the pulse... spiritual progress in Christ?

- Hebrews 6:10

For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

### Feeling the pulse... spiritual progress in Christ?



### Context: Self-Centered Perceptions of Spirituality

- 2:8 Traditionalism / Legalism  
- rites and rituals
- 2:18 Experientialism / Mysticism  
- worship of angels
- 2:20-22 Asceticism  
- self-denial

### Feeling the pulse... spiritual progress in Christ?

- Colossians 1:5-8

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### Introducing... the Incomparable CHRIST!

- Theme of the epistle to the Colossians (& tri-city churches)
- Live the new life completely IN the incomparable Christ

### Feeling the pulse... spiritual progress in Christ?

**FAITH HOPE LOVE**

- HOPE - directs us upwards to heavenly realities.

Because of Christ, hope sees the circumstances of today in a much larger context. It grants an unshakable sense of purpose and destiny even in the worst of times. Hope makes us, ... "a thoroughly future oriented people" in Christ.

Adapted from Allan Ratta "Making Spiritual Progress - Building your life with faith hope and love" (2014)

## Feeling the pulse... spiritual progress in Christ?

**FAITHHOPELOVE**

- FAITH – focusses us to Christ as the object and sphere of confidence

Are we worried or fearful? Is our faith in ourselves or in Christ? Faith is not just a belief in God's greatness. It is a deep personal connection (in Christ) that engenders trust in God's complete goodness. It is not wishful thinking, but truthful thinking. God is ALL good.

Adapted from Allan Ratta "Making Spiritual Progress – Building your life with faith hope and love" (2014)

## Feeling the pulse... spiritual progress in Christ?

**FAITHHOPELOVE**

- LOVE – points us outward to people.

It motivates us to engage with others and their needs, not self...

Love targets relationships.

Adapted from Allan Ratta "Making Spiritual Progress – Building your life with faith hope and love" (2014)

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- Display LOVE towards all believers

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