

THE INFLUENCE OF A JOYFUL FAITH

1 THESSALONIANS 1:5B-8 - OCTOBER 15, 2023

Text

Parentheses: The team's testimony with the Thessalonians (5b)

The Thessalonians received the word with joy despite affliction (6)

The significance: this was an imitation of the missionaries and Christ (6)

The result: an example to all the believers in the region (7)

Because: in the region the word sounded forth from them (8a)

Because: everywhere other believers heard about their faith and repentance (8b-10)

Summary: By joyfully receiving the word of God with faith and repentance (despite affliction, which meant they followed the example of Christ and the missionaries) and by sharing that word, the Thessalonians influenced believers throughout the region and beyond.

Principles

1. The Holy Spirit gives us joy in the gospel

John 15:11 *These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.*

John 16:20–22 *Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. ²¹ When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. ²² So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.*

John 16:24 *Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.*

John 17:13 *But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.*

Acts 13:5; Romans 14:17; Galatians 5:22

Isaiah 12:3 *With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.*

2. The Spirit's joy can rise above any circumstance

Luke 6:22–23 *Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! ²³ Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.*

1 Peter 1:5–6 *by God's power [you] are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials*

Nehemiah 8:10 *the joy of the LORD is your strength*

1 Peter 4:13 *but rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings*

3. The word that brought us joy should ring out from our hearts

- 4. Our right responses to the gospel can have a remarkable influence on other believers**
 - a. Our joy in affliction (6)**
 - b. Our faith in God (8)**
 - c. Our repentance (9)**
 - d. Our hope (10)**