

**BOOK OF 1 THESSALONIANS
THE WORK OF FAITH
1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-10; 2:13**

Introduction

I think we all like to be remembered for things, don't we? Don't you like when somebody sends you a note and acknowledges something good in your life. I want you to look at this Chapter as being that from Paul.

Paul is giving thanks for this Church at Thessolonica. Now understand that Paul could have remembered the difficulty he had in establishing this Church. Last week we read the background for this book found in Acts 17 where Dr. Luke recorded when Paul, Silas, and Timotheus helped start this Church. (Tell again about what happened there.)

But what Paul chose to remember was the work of God in their lives!
May God help us to remember the work of God in folks lives!

READ SCRIPTURE

We see here that first of all Paul remembered **THEIR WORK OF FAITH!**
Or, the work that was produced by their faith!

**I. THEIR WORK OF FAITH INVOLVED A PROPER ACTION
TOWARD THE WORD!**

They “**received the Word**” which they heard of Paul and his companions.

1 Thessalonians 2:13—“...when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us...”

They didn't just hear with **the hearing of the ear**, but with **the hearing, or rather, the understanding of the heart!**

Romans 10:17—“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

There can be **NO work of faith apart from hearing and understanding the Word of God in our lives!**

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Now we know that the Holy Spirit of God is the One Who enables us and causes us to have an understanding of the Word of God!

1 Corinthians 2:12-14; Cf. John 16:8-11

So, there can be **NO WORK OF FAITH** in our lives apart from a hearing and understanding of the Word of God through the work of the Holy Spirit of God in our lives!

Now understand that we can **RESIST** the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives and we can **GRIEVE** the Holy Spirit in our lives! But if anything is going to be accomplished it is going to be when we respond in **FAITH THAT WORKS!**

Think for just a moment about what a wonderful resource the Word of God is in our lives!

Hebrews 4:12—“For the word of God is **quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**”

1. It Is Quick—or ALIVE!

Something that is alive actually does something!

2. It Is Powerful—or ACTIVE! (Or “operative”...The word translated “powerful” comes from the same word we get our word “energy” from!)

3. It Is Sharp—or KEEN!

The word “*sharper*” means to cut in a comprehensive or decisive way, as if by a single stroke; rather than by blows, like hacking; more keen!

4. It Is Piercing—or Penetrating!

Piercing” is translated from a word that means to reach through, that is, penetrate!

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PROPER ACTION TOWARD THE WORD...

**II. THEIR WORK OF FAITH INVOLVED A PROPER
ATTITUDE TOWARD THE WORD OF GOD!**

1 Thessalonians 2:13—"...ye received it not as the word of men..."

If they received what Paul preached as the Word of men, then that would mean they could have a *"take it or leave it"* attitude!

That's what a lot of folks do with what the preacher says...and that's OK, **IF** a preacher is **proclaiming his opinion**...or **preaching his preferences**...or is **just telling human interest stories**...or is **otherwise proclaiming something other than the pure Word of God!**

But when a man called of God really preaches THE BOOK—THE BIBLE—And is true to THE WORD OF GOD!

Oh my friend, you had better see **IT** (i.e. the Word of God!) for what **IT** truly is and take heed to what **IT** says!

A. The Bible Contains Some Great Literature, But It Is More Than Just A Book Of Literature!
(Exp: Psalms, Proverbs, etc.)

B. The Bible Contains A Lot Of Recorded History, But It Is More Than Just A Book Of History!
The Bible contains accurate history of the beginnings of the World, the fall of man, the worldwide flood, and God's chosen people, the Jews.

It records accurately events surrounding the birth and the life and ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ.

It also accurately records the early history of the Church!

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But listen, this Book is SO MUCH MORE THAN JUST A BOOK OF HISTORY!

C. The Bible Contains Some Great Ethical Principles, But It Is More Than Just A Code Of Ethics!

There are some truly great principles found in the Word of God! The Law of God! There is nothing wrong with the Law of God! What is wrong is man's heart!

The Proverbs offer some great ethical principles to live by, but the Bible is more than just a code of ethics!

D. The Bible Is More Than A Word From God!

E. The Bible IS THE WORD OF GOD!!!

That is the proper acceptance of the Word of God...

PROPER ACTION TOWARD THE WORD!

PROPER ATTITUDE TOWARD THE WORD!

**III. THEIR WORK OF FAITH INVOLVED A PROPER
ACCEPTANCE OF THE WORD!**

1 Thessalonians 2:13—"...ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God."

A Proper Acceptance Of The Word Involves A Proper Response To The Word!

A. We Must Believe God! (Exp: Noah in Hebrews 11:7)
Does your faith move you to action?

B. We Must Obey God! (Exp: Abraham in Hebrews 11:8)
Trust And Obey for there is not other way!

C. We Must Trust God! (Exp: Abraham in Hebrews 11:17)

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*PROPER ACTION TOWARD THE WORD!
PROPER ATTITUDE TOWARD THE WORD!
PROPER ACCEPTANCE OF THE WORD!*

**IV. THEIR WORK OF FAITH INVOLVED A PROPER
ACCOMPLISHMENT BY THE WORD!**

1 Thessalonians 2:13—“...effectually worketh also in you that believe.”

The Word **accomplished something** in their lives!

As we look at **1 Thessalonians 1:6-10** we can see very clearly what the Word accomplished in them:

A. They Became Followers! (Vs 6)

“followers” = “imitators”

1 Corinthians 11:1—“Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.”

B. They Became Ensamples! (Vs 7)

“ensamples” = “a die, stamp, shape, sampler, model”

Think of it as being an *example sample!*

They became a model Church for those around them!

C. They Became Witnesses! (Vs 8)

“sounded out” = “echoed, resounded”

D. They Became Different! (Vs 9)

It was very obvious that their lives had changed!

Verse 9 speaks of repentance!

“...how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God!”

They didn't just add Jesus to their gods!

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E. They Became Watchful! (Vs 10)

They were waiting for the LORD.

Conclusion

What we see is that **their faith was working!**

Faith without works is dead! (**James 2:14-26**)

The faith that saves is a faith that produces something!

Our actions show our faith!

But this Thessalonian Church's WORKS showed that their FAITH WAS ALIVE!

What About Your Faith?

1) Do you have a proper action toward the Word?

2) Do you have a proper attitude toward the Word?

3) Do you have a proper acceptance of the Word?

**4) Does your life show a proper accomplishment by the Word?
(i.e. Is your faith working?)**