

## Faith Has a Voice

September 4, 2011

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### 1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-10

#### **This Week's Core Competency:**

##### **Giving Away My Faith:**

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

*Pray also for me, that the message may be given to me when I open my mouth to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel. For this I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I might be bold enough in Him to speak as I should. Tychicus, our dearly loved brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me so that you may be informed. (Ephesians 6:19-21)*

#### **Using This Study**

##### **❶ EXAMINE His Word**

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

##### **❷ EXPLORE His Word**

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

##### **❸ EXPAND His Word**

How does this FIT? Studying cross references can help expand your understanding of a passage and discover the unity in God's word.

##### **❹ EMBRACE His Word**

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

#### **Actions Speak Louder Than Words**

Have you ever told someone you would do something and then failed to actually do it? Have you ever been promised something only to be let down? In such situations, we discover the truth of the familiar saying "actions speak louder than words."

Mother Teresa worked amongst the poorest of the poor in India. For over 50 years, she dedicated her life to helping orphans, those who were sick, and marginalized by society. Mother Teresa must have had this concept of actions speaking louder than words figured out. She never preached a sermon; instead, she worked joyfully in the slums of Calcutta. The way that she lived her life was an emphatic declaration of what she believed. In an interview several years before she died she stated, "People do not expect from the church a constant flow of statements. Instead they expect love, care, and concern. Their statements will be made through their lives and their commitments to Christ."

Everything speaks. What does your life say to others? Are others blessed by the beauty that flows from Christ through you? As a result of interacting with you, do others experience anything of the radical love, joy, mercy and forgiveness that comes from a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ? Does being around you make others hunger for Jesus?

#### **This Week**

The Thessalonians lived in a way that caused the people from surrounding areas to take note. They became models for other believers. As your study this passage, ask God to make your life a testimony.

## ① EXAMINE His Word

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What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the passage.

### Acts 17:1-9

1 Then they traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia and came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue.

2 As usual, Paul went to the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days reasoned with them from the Scriptures,

3 explaining and showing that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead: “This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah.”

4 Then some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, including a great number of God-fearing Greeks, as well as a number of the leading women.

5 But the Jews became jealous, and they brought together some scoundrels from the marketplace, formed a mob, and started a riot in the city. Attacking Jason’s house, they searched for them to bring them out to the public assembly.

6 When they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city officials, shouting, “These men who have turned the world upside down have come here too,

7 and Jason has received them as guests! They are all acting contrary to Caesar’s decrees, saying that there is another king—Jesus!”

8 The Jews stirred up the crowd and the city officials who heard these things.

9 So taking a security bond from Jason and the others, they released them.

10 As soon as it was night, the brothers sent Paul and Silas off to Berea. On arrival, they went

into the synagogue of the Jews.

### 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

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.

2 We always thank God for all of you, remembering you constantly in our prayers.

3 We recall, in the presence of our God and Father, your work of faith, labor of love, and endurance of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ,

4 knowing your election, brothers loved by God.

5 For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, in the Holy Spirit, and with much assurance. You know what kind of men we were among you for your benefit,

6 and you became imitators of us and of the Lord when, in spite of severe persecution, you welcomed the message with joy from the Holy Spirit.

7 As a result, you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

8 For the Lord’s message **rang out** from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place that your faith in God has gone out. Therefore, we don’t need to say anything,

9 for they themselves report what kind of reception we had from you: how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God

10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead —Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

## Notes

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(1 Th 1:1)- **Silvanus** and **Timothy** were coworkers with Paul during his second missionary journey. Silvanus, or Silas, was a Judean Christian (Acts 15:22) who joined Paul after he separated from Barnabas (Acts 15:39–40). Timothy, of Lystra in south Galatia, was a son of a Jewish mother and Greek father and became partners with Paul when Paul passed through his hometown early on his second journey.

(1 Th 1:1)-The word “**church**” in Gk. is *ekklesia*,

which means “a called-out group.” The church is not a social club; it is a spiritual organism.

(1Th 1:8)-The word *exēchētai*, translated rang out, could be rendered “reverberated.” Paul’s preaching in Thessalonica had the effect of speaking into a public address microphone; his words were received and repeated by many different “speakers” in many remote places where his unaided voice could not have reached.

## **EXPLORE His Word**

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### What does God MEAN?

1. In a few sentences, please summarize Paul's missionary trip to Thessalonica including the response of the Thessalonians.
2. According to 1 Thessalonians 1:4-6, what two things specifically caused the Thessalonians to believe?
3. What specifically did the believers do that imitated the Apostles and the Lord?
4. From 1 Thessalonians 1:7-8, what was the result of the Thessalonians' faith?

## **③ EXPAND His Word**

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### How does this FIT?

5. What three things do the following verses prescribe as needed for a demonstrable faith to occur?
  - a. Matthew 13:19, 23
  - b. Romans 1:16; 10: 14-15
  - c. Acts 1:7, 8; John 16:7-11
6. 1 Thessalonians 1:6 says that the Thessalonians became imitators of the Lord. What do the following scriptures suggest about being imitators of God?
  - a. Ephesians 5:1-2
  - b. Philippians 2:5-7
  - c. 2 Peter 1:3

## ④ EMBRACE His Word

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Why does this MATTER to me?

7. Read Matthew 5:13-16. Does your life confirm, contradict, or keep silent on what you say that you believe?
8. (Ask the Lord) What changes or practical step could you take that might cause your life to be a more powerful witness to the hope that you have in Jesus Christ?

### **Summarize your thoughts on the passage:**

Write about what God wants you to KNOW...

Write about how God wants you to FEEL...

Write about what God wants you to DO...

### **Sermon Notes:**

# 30 CORE Competencies

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## 10 Core Beliefs

**Trinity** *2 Corinthians 13:14*

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Salvation by Grace** *Ephesians 2:8-9* I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

**Authority of the Bible** *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

**Personal God** *Psalms 121:1-2*

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

**Identity in Christ** *John 1:12*

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

**Church** *Ephesians 4:15-16*

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

**Humanity** *John 3:16*

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

**Compassion** *Psalms 82:3-4*

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

**Eternity** *John 14:1-4*

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

**Stewardship** *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

I believe that everything I am or own belongs to God.

## 10 Core Practices

**Worship** *Psalms 95:1-7*

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

**Prayer** *Psalms 66:16-20*

I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

**Bible Study** *Hebrews 4:12*

I read the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

**Single-mindedness** *Matthew 6:33* I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

**Spiritual Gifts** *Romans 12:4-6*

I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish God's purposes.

**Biblical Community** *Acts 2:44-47*

I engage with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in my life, others' lives, and in the world.

**Giving Away My Time** *Colossians 3:17*

I give away my time to fulfill God's purposes.

**Giving Away My Money** *2 Corinthians 8:7*

I give away my money to fulfill God's purposes.

**Giving Away My Faith** *Ephesians 6:19-20*

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

**Giving Away My Life** *Romans 12:1*

I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes.

## 10 Core Virtues

**Joy** *John 15:11*

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

**Peace** *Philippians 4:6-7*

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, me, and others.

**Faithfulness** *Proverbs 3:3-4*

I demonstrate loyalty in my relationships with others in response to God's loyalty to me.

**Self-Control** *Titus 2:11-13*

I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

**Humility** *Philippians 2:3, 4*

I choose to esteem others above myself.

**Love** *1 John 4:10-12*

I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

**Patience** *Proverbs 14:29*

I endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

**Kindness/Goodness** *1 Thess. 5:15*

I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others.

**Gentleness** *Philippians 4:5*

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

**Hope** *Hebrews 6:19-20*

I can cope with the hardships of life and with death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ