

## “The Power of the Gospel”

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. <sup>2</sup>We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, <sup>3</sup>remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup>because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup>And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup>so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup>For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. <sup>9</sup>For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, <sup>10</sup>and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 (English Standard Version)

- SINCE THE GOSPEL IS MORE THAN WORDS, WE CAN **TRUST ITS POWER.**

### The Impact of the Gospel

(1 Thessalonians 1:5)

- The gospel comes **in power.**

*I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes . . .* Romans 1:16 (New International Version)

*My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, <sup>5</sup>so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.* 1 Corinthians 2:4-5 (NIV)

- The gospel is accompanied by the activity **of the Holy Spirit.**
- The Spirit brings **conviction** when the gospel is presented.

*And when he [the Spirit] comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment.* John 16:8 (New Living Translation)

Election = Believers are chosen or elected by God for salvation, according to His loving purpose. (See Romans 8:29-30; 9:14-16; Ephesians 1:4-6)

*Now our knowledge is partial and incomplete, and even the gift of prophecy reveals only part of the whole picture! <sup>12</sup>Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.*

1 Corinthians 13:9, 12 (NLT)

- SINCE THE GOSPEL TRANSFORMS OUR HEARTS, IT **CHANGES OUR LIVES.**

*A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart.*

Matthew 12:35 (NLT)

- **A faith that works** (1:3)

*But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. <sup>26</sup>For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.* James 2:18, 26 (ESV)

- **A love that labors** (1:3)a

Love = A call to behavior that acts in the best interest of the other

- **A confidence for God's future** (1:3)

*For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, <sup>13</sup>waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, . . .* Titus 2:11-13 (ESV)

- A motivation to **grow in godliness** (1:6)
- **Joy** in the midst of pain (1:6-7)
- A turning **from idols to God** (1:9)