

“God’s List for Successful Ministry” 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

You know, brothers, that our visit to you was not a failure.
1 Thessalonians 2:1 (New International Version)

*And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,
¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, . . .*
Ephesians 4:11-12 (English Standard Version)

What’s on **God’s list** for successful ministry? What are the **marks of success** that **He** cares about?

- **BEING TENACIOUS**

We had previously suffered and been insulted in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in spite of strong opposition.
1 Thessalonians 2:2 (NIV)

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Ephesians 6:10 (ESV)

- **HAVING ONE MOTIVE IN MINISTRY: TO PLEASE GOD**

*For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive,
⁴but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts. ⁵For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness. ⁶Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, . . .
¹⁰You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers.* 1 Thessalonians 2:3-6, 10 (ESV)

- Paul spoke the truth. (See verse 3)

Hold on to the pattern of wholesome teaching you learned from me—a pattern shaped by the faith and love that you have in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴Through the power of the Holy Spirit who lives within us, carefully guard the precious truth that has been entrusted to you. 2 Timothy 1:13-14 (New Living Translation)

- Paul lived the truth.

- **GIVING LOVE AND COMMITMENT AND SPIRITUAL SUPPORT TO THOSE YOU’RE SERVING**

*But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children.
⁸So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.
¹¹For you know how, like a father with his children, ¹²we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.* 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8, 11-12 (ESV)

Qualities of a Spiritual Father and Mother

- Gentleness
- Committed love
- Spiritual Encouragement

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.
Hebrews 10:24 (ESV)

- **WILLINGNESS TO WORK HARD IN PURSUIT OF A CLEAR GOAL**

For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.
1 Thessalonians 2:9 (ESV)