

1 Thessalonians (ch 1)

Developing Deep Roots

How God Led Paul to Thessalonica

Act 16:6 NIV Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of **Phrygia** and **Galatia**, ***having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia.***

Act 16:7 NIV When they came to the border of **Mysia**, they tried to enter **Bithynia**, but ***the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.***

Act 16:8-9 So they passed by **Mysia** and went down to **Troas**. During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "**Come over to Macedonia and help us.**"

- They met Lydia and led her to the Lord
- They cast a demon out of a woman - she was a fortune teller - so those who made money from her had Paul & Silas beaten and thrown into prison
- They worshipped the LORD and an earthquake came
- The Philippian jailer and his family got saved
- Paul was asked to leave the city
- He next came to Thessalonica

The Birth of the Church in Thessalonica Was Not Ideal [See Acts 17:1-15]

- on **three Sabbath days** he reasoned with them from the Scriptures
- Some of the Jews were persuaded...a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women. **But other Jews were jealous**
- they rounded up some **bad characters**
- **formed a mob** and **started a riot** in the city.
- **They rushed to Jason's house**
- they dragged Jason and some other believers before the city officials
- the believers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea
- When the Jews in Thessalonica learned that Paul was preaching the word of God at Berea, some of them went there too, **agitating the crowds and stirring them up**
- The believers immediately sent Paul to the coast (to Athens a 12 days journey by land)

Paul had concerns...He wrote, "I Sent To Find Out About Your Faith"

1Th 3:2-5 NIV We sent Timothy, who is our brother and co-worker in God's service in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, (3) ***so that no one would be unsettled by these trials.*** For you know quite well that we are destined for them. (4) In fact, when we were with you, ***we kept telling you that we would be persecuted.*** And it turned out that way, as you well know. (5) For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, ***I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter had tempted you and that our labors might have been in vain.***

...He Found Out...They Were Standing Firm

1Th 3:6-8 NIV But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has ***brought good news about your faith and love***. He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you. (7) Therefore, brothers and sisters, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith. (8) ***For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord.***

What Paul wrote sheds some light upon the source of their 'standing firm in the Lord'

- Title of the message is "DEVELOPING DEEP ROOTS" because this is what it takes to endure affliction or persecution
 - Mar 4:16-17 KJV And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; 17 **And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.**

The Thessalonian Church - A Portrait of Believers with Deep Roots

1Th 1:1-10 NIV Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you. 2 We always thank God for all of you and **continually mention you in our prayers**. 3 We remember before our God and Father your **work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ**. 4 For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, 5 because our gospel came to you **not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction**. You know **how we lived among you for your sake**. 6 You became **imitators** of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message **in the midst of severe suffering** with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. 7 And so you became a **model** to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. 8 The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia--your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, 9 for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell 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.

Ways Paul Helped the Thessalonians Get Deep Roots

1. **He prayed for them continually**
 - vs 2 We continually mention you in our prayers
2. **He ministered to them by the power of the Holy Spirit**
 - vs 5 A message with more than words - filled with power, the Holy Spirit and deep conviction
 - 1Co 2:4-5 NIV My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, (5) so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.
3. **He lived his life as an example they could follow**
 - vs 5 You know how we lived among you for your sake

While Paul and Silas played a part in helping this church in the very beginning - their ability to get deep roots largely rested with them and their walk with the Lord...when Paul wrote the letter to the Thessalonians he is affirming things in their lives that contributed to getting DEEP ROOTS,

They were building their lives on things that last - Faith Hope and Love

1. They began to live and do things on the basis of their newfound FAITH (The What)

- Work produced by faith - faith changed them (they were living out their faith)
 - Jas 2:14 & 18 NIV What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds?... vs 18 But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.

2. Their labor prompted by LOVE (the Why)

- The love of God became the new energy and motivation behind their labor

3. Endurance inspired by HOPE (the How) Hope in his 2nd coming (vs10)

- They began to think of life in light of eternity

They took responsibility for their personal growth

1. Willing to follow godly examples

- vs 6 - You became **imitators** of us and of the Lord

2. Receptive to the word of God

- vs 6 - You **welcomed the message** in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit

They took responsibility to help others grow

1. They were willing to become a model for others to follow

- vs 7 - And so you became a **model** to all the **believers** in Macedonia and Achaia.

2. They were bold in proclaiming their faith

- vs 8 - The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia--your faith in God has become known everywhere.

They were fully convinced of and serious about their relationship with God

1. They were serious about their repentance

- vs 9 - You turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God

2. They looked to the 2nd coming of Christ (vs 10)

- Endurance through persecution, and hope of the resurrection - life beyond this
- Saved from God's wrath - joy of salvation - burden for the lost