



LESSON TWO

Kingdom Lives 1 Thessalonians 1

**Paul, Silas and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace and peace to you.**

**Thanksgiving for the Thessalonians' Faith
We always thank God for all of you and continually
mention you in our prayers. 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.**

**For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that
he has chosen you, 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. 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. And so you became a model to all
the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. 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 any-
thing about it, 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,
and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised
from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming
wrath.**

1. Share about a time when God gave you the strength to accomplish a task or have a difficult conversation.

2. Read 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3. Paul discusses the relationship between:

- Works & Faith
- Love & Labor
- Endurance & Hope

According to these verses, what and/or who should prompt us to pray and thank God?
How does this differ from the majority of prayer requests that we hear today?

3. Notice in verse 4, Paul did not write, "For we know, brothers and sisters chosen by God, that he has loved you." In your opinion, why did Paul place the word "loved" before the word "chosen"?

4. In verses 4-7, in more than one way, Paul says the Thessalonian believers set a good example. What 2 words in verses 6-7 does Paul use to describe the Thessalonians as setting a good example? How are those 2 words similar and how are they different? How did the Thessalonians set a good example?

5. Paul says in verse 6 that the Thessalonians joyfully welcomed Jesus's message in the midst of severe suffering. Have you ever been joyful during a painful season? If so, what happened? How were you able to stay joyful? What lessons did you learn from the experience?

6. According to verses 8-9, what was the result of their good example? From your personal life, who comes to mind when you think of Christians who set a good example?

7. Read the following verses where Paul writes about God's wrath: Romans 2:8; Ephesians 5:6; Colossians 3:5-6; 1 Thessalonians 2:14-16. According to these verses, why is God's wrath coming?

8. Read 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9. How did Jesus rescue believers from God's wrath? In your opinion, what's the difference between God's wrath and God's discipline?

FOR WEEKLY REFLECTION

1. Reflect on any of the above questions that your group didn't get a chance to address.
2. Try reading 1 Thessalonians 1 once a day this week in a different Bible version each day.
3. Read all of the following verses where Paul either prays or talks about prayer: Acts 16:25-26; Romans 1:8-11; 8:26-27; 12:12; 15:30-33; 2 Corinthians 1:11; 13:7-9; Philip-
pians 1:9-11; 4:6-7; Ephesians 1:16-21; 3:14-19; 6:18-20; Colossians 4:2-4; 1 Thessalo-
nians 3:9-13; 2 Thessalonians 3:5; 1 Timothy 2:1-5; Philemon 1:6.

Now, reflect on the following questions:

- What caused Paul to pray?
 - What common themes could you identify in these verses?
 - How might these verses help your prayer life to improve?
4. Which of the following areas do you need to grow:
 - Works & Faith
 - Love & Labor
 - Endurance & Hope