

# Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

*Living in the Spirit*

## Lesson 12: The Power of the Good News

### Bible Text

1 Thessalonians 1:2-6

### Memory Verse

“... the Good News did not come to you by word only, but with power and through the Holy Spirit.” (1 Thessalonians 1:5b)

### Word List

**suffer:** to feel what is painful to the mind or body; can come from what others do

I really love Thanksgiving. It is wonderful to gather with friends and family. We enjoy eating together and visiting with those we have not seen for a time. Most of all it is good to remember what God has done for us. Thanksgiving is special because we say thank you to God.

Good news. We do not have to wait until the fourth Thursday of November to thank God for others and pray for them. We learn in this lesson that Paul thanked God all the time for the believers in Thessalonica.

### Thanksgiving for the Church

(1 Thessalonians 1:2)

**2 We thank God for you all the time and pray for you.**

The missionary team that Paul led with Silas and Timothy was thankful to God for the new believers in Thessalonica, a city in northern Greece. Many of the church members were those who had not been Jews. Their lives had changed from worshipping idols to worshipping the living and true God. Every time Paul and his friends prayed, they asked God to bless and help the Christians at Thessalonica.

God has saved them from their sins and given them new life as believers. Paul did not need to write and warn this church about any problems. He was able to be thankful for their faith.

### Three Reasons to be Thankful

(1 Thessalonians 1:3)

**3 While praying to God our Father, we always remember your work of faith and your acts of love and your hope that never gives up in our Lord Jesus Christ.**

When Paul and his friends prayed, they remembered three things about these believers: their faith, their love and their hope.

These are three important words for Paul. He tells us more about each of these words.

The *faith* of these new followers was a work that made a difference in the way they lived. Their *love* was not just in words but in actions. They did good things because they loved other people. They were strong and did not give up because they had a *hope* in Jesus.

Paul and his friends spoke about their *faith* in the Good News of Jesus. These believers in Thessalonica had learned it was true. They gave themselves to God and trusted Him for their lives. This changed the way they lived. All the people around them could see that they had changed. They were not the same as they had been before. This change showed others the faith that they had in God.

The new believers loved God for what He had done for them in Jesus. Their love for God showed itself in *love* for other people. Because of this, they wanted to share the love of God with them. So they worked hard. They spread the good news about Jesus. And they did all that they could to help those in need. All this showed others their love both for God and for other people.

Christian *hope* is stronger than wishing. It is to be certain. God says that something will happen. And so we are certain that it will happen. He has promised that Jesus Christ will come again to this

earth. The Christian hope looks forward to that time.

This hope gives strength, courage and patience to live while waiting for Christ to come. This kind of hope keeps on. It never gives up.

### **Share the Good News with Word and Power (1 Thessalonians 1:4-5)**

**4 Christian brothers, we know God loves you and that He has chosen you.**

**5 The Good News did not come to you by word only, but with power and through the Holy Spirit. You knew it was true. You also knew how we lived among you. It was for your good.**

God chose these believers at Thessalonica to be His own people. Paul is sure about this because these believers heard the message and trusted in the Lord Jesus. There was a change in them. The new life that comes from God caused this change. Only God can do this.

Paul, Silas and Timothy had preached the Good News of Jesus Christ to the people at Thessalonica. When they spoke, the power of God was working. The Holy Spirit took what they said. The Holy Spirit helped the people know they should be sorry for their sins and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. When they did this, God forgave them. He gave them the new

life that will never end.

This was power that was much greater than words. This power was the Holy Spirit. The Spirit worked, both in those who told the Good News and in those who heard it.

The power comes from God. The word of the Good News can be spoken or written. It tells what to do to be saved. No one can get this power by what he or she does. This is why Paul and his friends are thanking God for these brothers and sisters. God loved them and chose them. God gave to them a new life so they will never die. God had chosen them to be His own people.

Their faith came by the power of God and not by human work. The Holy Spirit convinced them that the Good News was true. And He helped them to believe that God had given them new life. They knew it was real.

Paul and his friends had lived among the believers in Thessalonica. They had

shown they were telling the truth by the way they lived. No one could say anything bad about them.

They preached the Good News not only in words but also with their lives. How they lived was the same as the message they spoke. The Thessalonians were sure about the truth because they knew the kind of men that Paul, Silas and Timothy were.

Paul, Silas and Timothy did not live for themselves while at Thessalonica. They lived for the good of others. They were there to show them the truth, which is the Good News about Jesus Christ. They wanted these men and women to have the chance to trust Jesus and have new life. God gives this new life to all those who love Jesus.

### **Believers Share the Good News**

**(1 Thessalonians 1:6)**

**6 You followed our way of life and the life of the Lord. You suffered from others because of listening to us. But you had the joy that came from the Holy Spirit.**

The believers at Thessalonica had seen how Paul and his friends lived while they were with them. They had heard how Jesus had lived while He was on the earth. They were now followers of Jesus.

They too **suffered** as Jesus, Paul and his friends had. This was for them a normal

### **Things to Think About**

1. How has the life and message of Jesus changed your life? Who else has God reached because of your changed life?
2. What does Jesus want to see in your life? In the lives of your family members?
3. Do you do good things to try to get God to do something for you, or because you love God and are thankful for all that God has done for you?
4. Describe something you have done this last week because of your faith in God that has helped others.

way of life for believers. They were happy to suffer because of the Good News about Jesus Christ. They told others the Good News about Jesus even when it caused trouble for them.

Those who did not believe made them suffer much. Only the Holy Spirit can give joy in difficult times. They overcame in these troubles because their hope in the Lord was strong.

### Things to Remember

It is our job to tell others the Good News. Only the Holy Spirit can make people understand their sins.

The message of Jesus Christ is given by the power of the Holy Spirit. Believers receive the message by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus came not only to bring the forgiveness of our sins, but also to make a change in what is important to us and the way we think and act. He saved us, not just to go to Heaven, but to share His message with others.

They too will live for God during this lifetime, and go to heaven for life that lasts forever. New believers tell others and the Holy Spirit changes more lives. The Good News keeps on spreading.

God has a plan for our lives, to save us and change us to be like Jesus. A work of

faith can only happen through the power of the Holy Spirit living in us. God has prepared a good work for each of us to do. This is true joy.

### 1 Thessalonians 1:2-6

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**While praying to God our Father, we always remember your work of faith and your acts of love and your hope that never gives up in our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**1 Thessalonians 1:3**

