



# 1Thessalonians: A Life of Faith

## Session 4: The Name

By Mary Kane

1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers,

3 remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father,

4 knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God.

5 For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.

6 And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit,

7 so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe.

8 For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.

9 For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and 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, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.



Hi! Welcome to session 4 of A Life of Faith. I pray your walk of faith has been strengthened from your time in God's Word. Please take a moment to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to make you sensitive to the truth of God's Word. Sign your initials on the line when you have finished praying: \_\_\_\_\_.

Please read 1 Thessalonians 1. Mark, underline and highlight the text as God directs.

Names were very important to the ancient Hebrew and the more modern Greek cultures. According to Blue Letter Bible, " ... besides designating persons, the name also stands for fame, renown, reputation, character gained or expressed ... in the New Testament, onoma [a Greek word for name], also has the significance of denoting the character, or work of the person." Since names were so significant to the people of the Bible, it is important to consider them when studying the Bible.

**Please go back to chapter 1 and highlight the name of every person, and place.**

**Please write the first three names you highlighted in the space below.**

Paulos, Silouanos, and Timotheos are the Greek transliterations of the names you wrote above. Please consider the definition of each name.

**Paulos:** of Latin origin, means small or little.

Paul's original name was "Saul," which means "desired." A former persecutor of the Christian church, Saul helped arrange for the death of many believers. Saul changed his name to Paul after he met Jesus on the road to Damascus and became a Christ follower.

**Why do you think Saul changed his name to Paul?**

I think Saul no longer "desired" to be an enemy of Christ, and he surrendered his own desires at the foot of the cross. I believe he no longer "desired" to be a big man in Israel, but was very content to be "little" for the cause of Christ. Paul believed, "He must increase and I must decrease."



**Silouanos:** also known as Silas, from the Latin, translates as "woody." Our own state of Pennsylvania (Penn's-woods) contains the same Latin root. The Hebrew equivalent of Silvanus translates as "knowing," or "ask." We will use the later translation as a question prompt.

**In what way do you wish to "know" God more deeply?**

**What do you need to "ask" God to heal in your heart and soul?**

**Timotheous:** the definition of this word is very rich with meaning. "Timotheous" translates as "honoring God," descends from other Greek words which mean "of the price paid or received for a person or thing bought or sold" and "to pay penalty, suffer punishment."

**What punishment did Jesus suffer for us?**

**What price did He pay to buy us back from our slavery to sin?**

In my cedar chest, I have a very valuable work of art. My masterpiece is a few wobbly scribbles on a plain piece of bubble jet computer paper ... my oldest son's first crayon creation. I have heard it said an object is only worth what someone is willing to pay for it. To me this picture is priceless; I wouldn't trade it for a million dollars. The same is true of us ... we are only worth what someone is willing to pay for us. What was the price God was willing to give for our ransom? The blood of Christ. The wonder of it all.

**Please go back to the text and underline the phrase, "God the Father," and similar phrases.**

Blue Letter Bible states God is the Father of creation, of the world, of the nation of Israel, and of every believer in Christ Jesus. As believers, we are sons and daughters of our Father.

**List some of the responsibilities of a father.**

While your earthly father may or may not have planned for your birth, your heavenly Father most certainly did. You were not accidental, but intentional.





In the original language, the word "God," from the phrase "God the Father," translates as "the One True God," who is immutable, all powerful, all knowing, righteous, holy, pure and true. There is only one true God, therefore all other gods are false, powerless, and empty.

In the original Greek, "father" transliterates as "pater," which means, "nourisher, protector, upholder."

**How does God nourish, protect, and uphold you?**

**Please go back to our text and draw an icon above every occurrence of "God the Father."**

My icon is shown below. I chose a hand because God holds me in His hand, and my father always held my hand when I was little.



"...God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:"

Finally, we turn our attention to "the Lord Jesus Christ." Please highlight every occurrence of "Lord Jesus Christ" in the text on the first page.

"Jesus" was a common name during Bible times. In some modern cultures, the name "Jesus" is still in use. However, there is only one Lord Jesus Christ. In the original Greek, Lord Jesus Christ looks like κύριος Ἰησοῦς Χριστός which transliterates as kyrios Iēsous Christos. Each word of "Lord Jesus Christ" is translated below.

**Kyrios:** "... he to whom a person or thing belongs, about which he has power of deciding; master, lord." (Kyrios also means many other things. To do a deeper study on this word please go to [www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org))

To whom do you belong? Is Jesus your Lord; your Kyrios? Does Jesus decide the course of your life?

**Iesous:** this Greek word descends from the Hebrew and means, "Jehovah is salvation." This definition makes clear the oneness of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. It is wonderful to note in the opening words of 1 Thessalonians the union of Old Testament and New Testament names of God: Jehovah and Jesus.





**Christos:** translates as "the anointed."

During Old Testament times, kings, prophets and priests were anointed with oil prior to taking the office to which they were appointed by God. The word "anoint" means to pour oil on something, to consecrate for holy use. Please read Luke 4:18.

**For what particular work was Jesus anointed?**

Now please read 2 Corinthians 1:21-22.

**For what particular work have we been anointed?**

As servants of the Lord Jesus Christ, we too are called to preach the Good News to the poor, proclaim freedom for the captives, and minister healing to the brokenhearted.

**How are you living out God's calling and anointing in your life?**

May I have the pleasure of closing in prayer for you?

Dearest Holy Father,

I pray for my brothers and sisters in Christ. Help them to realize You have called, chosen, gifted, elected and anointed them to do very important work for Your kingdom. Someone is doubting Your calling because of past sin, pride or selfishness. Help them to lay aside these hindrances and by Your marvelous grace, accept Your calling and anointing. Their hands, their feet and their mouths are needed to take the message of Your great Name to a lost and dying world. May my brothers and sisters go to their knees and accept Your calling. I pray in Jesus' Holy Name. Amen.

Thank you for joining me today.

By Mary Kane  
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