

*1 Thessalonians: Part 7*  
*A Life of Faith*  
*Chapter 2: Approved by God*

- 1 For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain.
- 2 But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict.
- 3 For our exhortation did not come from error or uncleanness, nor was it in deceit.
- 4 But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.
- 5 For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness—God is witness.
- 6 Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ.
- 7 But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children.
- 8 So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.
- 9 For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God.
- 10 You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe;
- 11 as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children,
- 12 that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.
- 13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the



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(word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

14 For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they did from the Judeans,

15 who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they do not please God and are contrary to all men,

16 forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they may be saved, so as always to fill up the measure of their sins; but wrath has come upon them to the uttermost.

17 But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavored more eagerly to see your face with great desire.

18 Therefore we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us.

19 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?

20 For you are our glory and joy.



Hi! I am so glad you returned for part 7 of A Life of Faith. As you continue to study and apply God's Word, you reap blessings for the present, and store up treasure for the future. Before we begin our study time today, please take a moment to pray, and ask God to open the eyes of your heart. Sign your initials on the line after you pray. \_\_\_\_\_.

Please read 1 Thessalonians 2 on pages one and two. As you read, mark, highlight, and underline anything that catches your attention.

**Go back and read verse 2 again. Please write the main idea of verse 2 in the space below.**

Most likely you recorded something about *suffering*.

**Glance back at verse 2. What was the result of the suffering and persecution Paul and his coworkers endured?**

They were made *bold*. In the face of persecution Paul and his companions did not retreat in fear; they continued to boldly do the work for which they had been commissioned. Did you note they continued to speak despite much conflict? Conflict is not a reason to remain silent.

**Please go back and draw an icon for *bold* above verse 2. My icon is shown below.**



“ ... we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict. “

In the original Greek, *bold* transliterates as *parrēsiazomai*, which means *to be bold, to speak freely, to have confidence and courage*, with great emphasis placed on the concept of *freedom*. While Satan works to silence the Gospel, God has freed His Word to echo throughout the land.

Think about your own experiences in sharing the Gospel.





**Have you ever been persecuted for your faith?**

**Do you struggle to share your faith or are you bold?**

Probably every Christian has struggled with fear when sharing the Gospel. I know I have. If we continue to struggle, God will make us bold. I have never regretted sharing my faith, but I have regretted the times I remained silent. The good news is we can pray and ask God to make us bold. Then we must choose, regardless of our feelings, to boldly share the Word of God. All of us have been called to share our faith under the command of the Great Commission. We are to go forth and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Don't let your feelings dictate your actions. Make your feelings submit to the Word of God. Right feelings will follow right actions.

**Please circle the action word (verb) in the phrase below.**

“But as we have been approved by God ...”

The word *approved* in the original Greek transliterates as *dokimazō*, which means *to examine, to test, to prove if something is genuine by testing, to find worthy*.

Read verse 4 again.

4 But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.

**For what have we been approved?**

How do you feel knowing you have been entrusted with the Gospel? *Entrusted* means what you think, *to have faith in, to be confident in, to be found trustworthy*. What have we been trusted to do with the Gospel? Keep it to ourselves? Hide it? No, verse 4 teaches we have been entrusted with the Gospel to *speak*. The chief reason God has given us the ability to speak is to have relationship with Him, to give Him praise, and to tell others about Jesus.

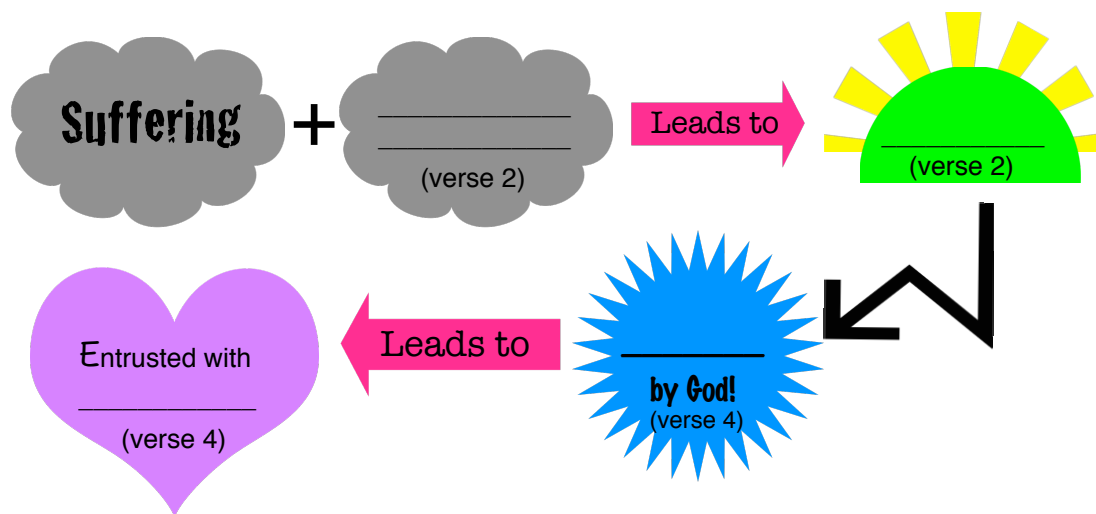




## What do you need to do to prepare yourself to speak the Gospel?

Please go back to pages 1 and 2, and mark *speak* and its synonyms with an icon.

Let's review what we learned about suffering today, and from session 6. What started with suffering and pain resulted in the spread of the Gospel. In order to cement this process in our head, and to remind ourselves of the blessing of suffering, please fill in the missing words on the graphic. (If needed, refer to verse 2-4 to complete this activity.)



When suffering and bitter treatment are met with faith and perseverance the result is the spread of the Gospel. Since we have been entrusted with Gospel, we must speak. Acts 1:8 reminds us we are to take the Gospel to, "... Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." The Great Commission will be realized through faith and suffering.

Please read verse 4 again and fill in the blank with the missing word:

"... even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our \_\_\_\_\_."

Why does the testing of our **heart** prove us worthy of the Gospel? Why not the testing of our brain or our mind? Musn't one be wise, intelligent, and astute to share the Gospel? Why does God test the heart? I think it is because God is love. "We can speak with the tongues of men and angels, ... have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and have all faith, so we could remove mountains, but have not love, we are nothing."



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Because of His great **love**, God gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him, shall have eternal life. The Gospel must be shared from the heart.

**Who needs to hear you speak the Gospel?**

Thank you for joining me today for Bible study. You have been entrusted with the Gospel—speak.

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