



1 Thessalonians: Part 10

A Life of Faith

Chapter 2: The Word

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



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.

"1 Thessalonians 2 (New King James Version)." Blue Letter Bible. Sowing Circle. Web. 3 Dec, 2014. <<http://www.blueletterbible.org/Bible.cfm?b=1Th&c=2&p=0&rl=0&t=NKJV>>.

all Greek and Hebrew definitions are taken from: www.blueletterbible.org



Welcome to session 10 of A Life of Faith. I pray that you are learning and growing in your walk with Jesus as you study God's Holy Word. Please take a moment to pray and ask God to open your heart to the truth of His Word and what He wants to teach you today. After you have prayed, please sign your initials on the line

_____.

Please read 1 Thessalonians 2 on pages 1-2. Take time to mark, underline, and highlight anything that stands out to you.

Please write verse 13 in the space below.

Underline or circle repeated words from the verse above. You should find two important repeated words.

Write your two repeated words:

Why are these two words (God and word) important?

When all is said and done, all of life comes back to God and His Word. For every question, challenge, struggle and problem, God and His Word is the answer.

How has God and His Word affected your life?

Please go back to verse 13 and draw symbols above the words God and word. My symbols are shown below.



“ ... because when you received the word of God which you heard from us ...”

I used the universal symbol for infinity for God, and a letter to represent His message to us.

Please circle the verb (action word) in the sentence below.

“ ... because when you received the word of God ...”



In the original Greek, the word *received* transliterates as *paralambano*, (I love the rich meaning of this word) which means “to take, to take with one's self, to join to one's self, an associate, a companion, to take a person with one, to obey, to receive by the instruction of teachers.” *Paralambano* is often used to describe the action of taking one's wife home.

Obedience, one of the definitions of *paralambano*, is an issue I have grappled with through the years. As a young Christian, I struggled to obey God when I didn't understand why I should. My lack of obedience was very costly. Frankly, the root cause of my rebellion could be traced to two issues: lack of trust and pride. After singeing my wings several times, I have learned to obey without completely understanding why I should, and to trust God's way as the best way.

Ponder the meaning of *paralambano* for a moment. Highlight the definitions that are most meaningful to you. Please answer the following questions.

**Is Jesus your constant companion? Is He as close as a husband or a wife?
How do you associate with Him throughout the day?**

Please go back and read verse 12 again.

What did the Thessalonians receive from Paul?

They *received* the Word of God. Using the definitions from above, please complete the following phrases by adding “the Word of God” in the blanks.

I take _____ to my heart and soul.

I take _____ with me wherever I go.

I join _____ to myself.

I associate with _____.

_____ is my companion.

I obey _____.

I am instructed by _____.



On the previous page, put a star by the phrases you want to make a reality in your life. Choose one phrase and answer the question below.

What is one thing you will do to work towards making your phrase a reality?

Why is the Word of God so important? Please read the following verses and make a list of the benefits of studying God's Word.

2 Timothy 3:16, Romans 15:4, Psalm 119:105, Matthew 4:4, Joshua 1:8, Hebrews 4:12, and Psalm 119:10-11.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Now we will turn our attention to the word *word*. The Greek word for word is *logos*. *Logos* means, "the sayings and moral precepts given by God, a word uttered by a living voice." *Logos* descends from *lego*, which means "to say, to speak to affirm, to call by name." I love the personal touch, "to call by name."



God personally calls each of us, by name, through His Holy Word, to accept His free gift of salvation. Have you accepted His gift? If not, tell Him now you would like to become His child. Ask Him to come into your heart and be your Savior. Please click on the following link for more information on how to accept Christ for your Savior: <http://onlybyprayer.com/the-way-to-god/>

How did the Thessalonians receive the Word?

They heard it from Paul and his coworkers. In this case, hearing does not refer to just the ability to hear; it also means to comprehend the message and its importance to the one who hears it. After we hear and accept God's message of salvation, we have a responsibility to carry His message to the next generation. And we continue to pass on the Good News from one generation to the next until Jesus returns. As we learned earlier in this study, God has chosen to entrust men with the message of the Gospel. If you are saved, it is because of the faithfulness of an earlier generation. We must fulfill the Great Commission. The next generation is waiting. Will we be faithful?

Please read verse 13 again and name two things the message is.

In our world of relativism, and tolerance, it is comforting to know the Truth. Truth is the person Jesus Christ. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life and He is the same yesterday, tomorrow and today. Unchanging. All-powerful. Almighty.

What does the truth do?

Please go back to page two and draw a symbol above the word work.

What word modifies the term work?

In the original language, *effectively* work translates as one word, *energeo*. *Energeo* means, "to be operative, be at work, put forth power, to effect, to work for one." *Energo* descends for two other Greek words: *en* and *ergon*. Please consider the definitions of the following:

En: to be with, among, through

ergon: business, employment, enterprise, a product



Using what you learned about *energeo*, please write a description of how God's Word works in the life of a Christian.

God's word is with us, among us, working with us, going with us through every situation and challenge we face. A full time employee, the Word works twenty-four hours a day to create very specific fruit in the lives of believers. Our responsibility is to continually utilize this highly effective tool until God's will has been accomplished. How do we use the Word of God? By directly speaking, and praying it into our challenges, and obeying what He commands. Are you tired of fighting the same battles? Are you tired of trying to change everyone around you? The most effective, powerful thing you can do to effect change in your life, personality, and destiny is to apply the Word of God.

Name one situation, challenge or personal attribute you wish to change.

Are you willing to do the work? Are you willing to let God work in your life? If so, please get started by doing the following:

1.	Tell God.
2.	Make a list of verses that apply.
3.	Pray verses into the heart of the matter.
4.	Do a Bible study that fits your situation.
5.	Ask someone to pray for you.
6.	PERSEVERE

A little more info about item number 2; write your verses on spiral-bound notecards. Carry your notecards everywhere you go. When you have a spare moment (waiting at stop lights, walking down the hall, etc.) pray a verse into your life. When you are faced with your specific situation or temptation, pray



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your verse into your situation (For an example of how to pray scripture, please read my prayer below). Plan ahead for what you will do when faced with your challenge—don't wait until the heat of the moment to decide what to do.

It will be hard. It will be messy. It will hurt. it will be inconvenient. People won't understand. You'll have to die to self. But, it will be good. You'll experience great joy, and your Father will be greatly pleased.

Dear Father,

I pray for my brother/sister in Christ. I pray that You give her/him the strength and courage they need to do the work. Your Word is a mighty two-edged sword and it ALWAYS accomplishes its purpose. Your word "is a fire ... a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces." Break the stony ground of his/her heart and give him/her a new heart that beats only for you.

In Jesus Holy Name,
Amen.

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