

1 Thessalonians: Part 5

A Life of Faith

Chapter 1: Sound Forth

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.

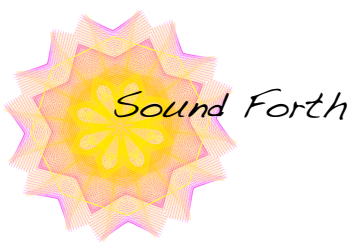
6 And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit,

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 back for session five of 1 Thessalonians, A Life of Faith. Please continue to work on your original copy of 1 Thessalonians 1, marking and underlining the text as God directs. If you have lost your copy, run a fresh page or use the copy at the end of this lesson. As always, please start your study time with prayer. Sign your initials on the line when you have finished praying: _____.

Please go back and read 1 Thessalonians 1. Mark or highlight any words or phrases that are meaningful to you.

Please look at verse 6 again and circle the word that describes what the Thessalonians became. Write the word in the blank. _____

They became *followers*. As we learned earlier *followers* in the Greek transliterates as *mimētēs*; from which we get our English word *mime*. After the Thessalonians became *followers* in verse 6, what did they become in verse 7? Write your answer on the blank. _____.

After becoming *followers*, they became *examples*. As Christians, we learn and turn to show others the way to God the Father. The Greek word for *examples* is very interesting; it transliterates as *typos*. Our English word *type* descends from *typos*. *Typos* means "the mark of a stroke or blow, print; a figure formed by a blow or impression." As inferred by the definition, transformation is wrought by suffering. Suffering is a tool used by God to transform our character. Blow by blow, God hammers away at pride, flaws and sin until we are sculpted into the image of Christ.

How has God used suffering to transform your life?

Typos is also used to describe "men worthy of imitation." I want to be worthy of imitation, don't you?

What does it take to convert from being a *follower* to an *example* worthy of imitation? Write a list of steps, practices and spiritual disciplines that facilitate the transformation process.

Verse 6 lists a key component of the transformation process. What is it?



There is very little transformation apart from the Word of God. His Word is living and powerful; a two edged sword that divides soul from spirit and joint from marrow.

Please go back to page 1, and draw a symbol for "word" above verse 6.

How was the word received?

It was received in much affliction with joy. Only with Jesus can there be affliction overshadowed by joy.

Please go back and draw an icon for "joy" in verse 6.

Have you ever simultaneously experienced affliction and joy?

Now we are going to spend a little time studying a phrase from verse 8. Please underline *sound forth* in the text on page 1. *Sound forth* is the translation for the Greek word *exēcheō*. A common English word *echo* is easily recognized in the Greek transliteration.

What is an echo?

An echo is a repetition of what has been said. Echoes do not add or subtract information from the original phrase, they just repeat it. Usually echoes fade and eventually die out, but not this echo. By definition the Greek word *exēcheō* means "roaring, in particular the roaring of the sea." My husband and I walked along the shores of Lake Michigan this past weekend. It was a windy day and the waves relentlessly rolled in one upon the other, ever changing and reshaping the beach and shoreline. In the same way God's Word continues to roar through the hearts and souls of His people; changing and reshaping us into the image of Christ. His Word always accomplishes His will, and never returns to Him void. Our job is to receive the Word, then sound the Word.

Please read verse 8 in the NLT below:

"And now the word of the Lord is **ringing out** (emphasis mine) from you to people everywhere, even beyond Macedonia and Achaia, for wherever we go we find people telling us about your faith in God. We don't need to tell them about it."



The NLT translation of *exēcheō* is *ringing out*. Please go back and draw an icon for *ringing out* above the text in verse 8. My icon is shown below.



"And now the word of the Lord is **ringing out** from you to people everywhere ... "

Please read verse 8 again and list all the places that the Word of God is ringing out *to* from the Thessalonians.

How is it possible, before the days of social media, for the faith of the Thessalonians to *sound forth* to Macedonia and Achaia?

Aside from Macedonia and Achaia, where else did the Word *sound forth* to?

Because of the Bible, the faith of the Thessalonians continues to *sound forth* to this day. 1 Thessalonians 1:8 is being fulfilled everytime we read this portion of Scripture; their faith continues to be an example to all believers. Long after we have gone, if we have lived a life of faith, following Jesus every step of the way, our faith will continue to *sound forth* to subsequent generations, giving witness to the faithfulness of Christ. We have been given a commission: Receive the Word, sound the Word.

With every action, word, thought, and deed we can choose to sound forth the truth of God. How will you sound forth His Word this day?

Thank you for joining me today for Bible study. Sound forth His truth.

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Grace and Peace

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