

Discussion Questions

Date: September 6, 2026

Preacher: Josh Ratliff

Sermon Outline

The Power of the Gospel | 1 Thessalonians 1:4-10

The Gospel Initiates Changed Lives (vv. 4-6)

- The Gospel preached was accompanied by the Holy Spirit's power and convicting work. (vv. 4-5)
- The reception of the Gospel and their transformed lives made it evident they were chosen by God. (vv. 4-6)
- **Question:** Does your life look so much like Jesus that if someone followed you they would look like Him?

Lives Transformed by the Gospel Resound Like a Trumpet (vv. 7-10)

- *Testimonies of changed lives inspire believers and bring the good news to all who hear.* (vv. 7-8)
- Gospel transformation brings about allegiance to the true God and an active waiting for Christ's return. (vv. 9-10)
- **Question:** What does active waiting for the return of Christ look like in your life?

Bottom Line: The Gospel has the power to transform our lives so completely that it should be impossible for anyone to miss.

Talking Points

- * What stories come to mind when you think about Gospel transformation? Consider Scripture, stories of other believers, and your own life.
- * When you proclaim the gospel does it go out in power and in the Holy Spirit and in assurance or just in words?
- * Name a time recently when you have received instruction or correction through God's Word and allowed it to change you.
- * How does the story of the the Thessalonians' transformation compare to what God has done in your life and in our church?
- * In what ways have you gone from "imitators" of others (v6) to examples of the faith (v7)? How have you continued to learn from others as you have matured in following Jesus?
- * What has been transformed in your life by the power of the Gospel? What in your life still needs to be transformed?
- * How does your life anticipate (or actively wait) for the return of Jesus?
- * Spend some time together in silent prayer asking God where He wants to continue to transform your life. What are you holding back that He is asking you to surrender?

Understanding Scripture

1. Read the passage aloud.

- Question: How would the original audience have understood this passage?
- Question: What was God's desire for them?

2. Reread key verse(s) aloud.

- Question: What does this teach us about the human soul, desires, or behavior?
- Question: What does this teach us about the nature, desires, or behavior of God?

3. Ask if anything is difficult to understand in the passage, or simply point it out yourself.

- Back up from the confusing verse and reread the whole section slowly—highlight the author's flow of thought.
- Ask everyone, "What are some possible interpretations?" Encourage curiosity!
- If needed, provide clarification, but admit if you don't have a satisfactory explanation, and volunteer to research answers. Share your findings over text or at the next meeting.

4. Summarize the passage in 1-3 sentences to refocus the group ("Okay, so far we've seen in Amos...")

- Question: What does this say about our relationship with God and/or each other?
- Question: How do the teachings, actions, or person of Jesus shed light on this passage?

Prayer Requests

