

**A STUDY OF 1 THESSALONIANS**  
***Making The Most of Your Influence—Part 1***  
**Dr. Larry Lamb**  
**September 23, 2018**

**ACTS 20.24**

*But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.*

When speaking of those committed to a life lived for the Lord Jesus Christ, the line seems to thin out. Not all, but some like the idea of being a **CONSUMER** for Jesus, but not **CONSUMED** for Him.

Wise people leverage their influence for eternal purposes.

Who are you living for?

What are you living for?

**QUALITIES OF INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE**

1. A faithful work for God, demonstrated with loving deeds, fueled with an enduring hope because of the Lord Jesus Christ. (v.3)

*(v.3) As we pray to our God and Father about you, we think of your faithful work, your loving deeds, and the enduring hope you have because of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

2. They have the perspective of joy in hard times. (v.6)

*(v.6) So you received the message with joy from the Holy Spirit in spite of the severe suffering it brought you. In this way, you imitated both us and the Lord.*

## **PHILIPPIANS 2.14**

*Do everything without complaining and arguing.*

- How did these people in the church get this way?
  - How can we come along side of others and help them be expanding influencers for eternal reasons?
  - How can our church emulate the Thessalonian church from the first century?
1. People can become influential because of **PRAYER**.
  2. People became influential because of the Holy Spirit's **POWER** manifested through them. V.5

**In the week ahead in all of the busyness:**

1. Locate the people **DEAREST** to you and pray for them specifically and constantly. Ratchet up prayer. Not vague, but specific.
2. Ask these 2 questions:
  - What kind of influence do I **HAVE** ?
  - What kind of influence do I **WANT** to have?

Not just words, put the demonstration and power of the Holy Spirit. That's someone who is leveraging their influence for eternal reasons.

### **Prayer of Salvation**

Jesus, I thank You that You came and died on the cross for my sins so that I can be forgiven. I am a sinner and in need of Your grace, mercy, and forgiveness. I turn from my sins and say "No" to a life of living for myself. I turn to You and say "Yes" to Your will for my life. I ask You now to save me from my sins. I open my heart to You and receive You as my Lord and Savior. Thank you for saving me and forgiving me. Amen .