



QUESTION 1

Have you ever had a moment when you felt as though God was speaking to you? Maybe not audibly, or in any physical way, but you felt like God was communicating to you on some level?

QUESTION 2

Have you ever gone through a tough time when you saw God use your experience to bring about the change in someone else's life? Has your pain ever been a 'megaphone' for the proclamation of God?

QUESTION 3

Are there people in your life who you would like to mimic (as Paul says in v14)? What qualities do they have that you find so magnetic? What are some practical steps to living your life patterned after them?

QUESTION 4

One of the best ways to 'mimic' someone is to spend time with them asking specific questions about how they live out their faith. Who is one person in your life you could ask to help you live out your faith?

WORD STUDY

The word used by Paul in v14 is translated 'imitate.' The word in the original Greek is *mimētēs*. That greek root word is where we get our English word mimic from. You can find that same word used in the following passage: 1 Cor. 4:16; 11:1; Eph. 5:1; 1 Thess 1:6; 2:14; 2 Thess. 3.7; Heb. 6:12; 1 Pet. 3:13.

GOING DEEPER

Paul drives the Thessalonians to see their situation from a larger perspective and to strengthen their sense of being part of a larger movement. They are not alone in their difficulties, and their experience is not unique. The emphasis of the verb *suffered* falls on the experience of suffering the believers bore as a result of the rejection and hostility against them. While the letter does not give us details concerning the form the persecution took, we can suppose that it included social rejection, including verbal abuse and accusations (cf. Acts 17:5–9), and possibly came to the point of physical attacks that resulted in martyrdom (1 Thess. 4:13).

Prayer Requests
