

“The Power of the Gospel”

1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

Our testimony in the timeline. Where does an effective testimony come from? How did we become the Christians we are today, and how will we become the Church we need to be going forward? Answer: The Gospel!

The gospel is the message from the Word of God telling us the good news of Jesus.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 ¹ Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures

The gospel is the good news about the death and resurrection of Jesus and also includes the hope of His second coming. This good news is taught in the Bible and empowered by the Spirit for our acceptance and belief.

The process:

THE GOSPEL CAME TO YOU (1:5) // THE GOSPEL WORKS IN YOU (1:6-7,9) // THE GOSPEL GOES OUT FROM YOU (1:8-10)

1. THE GOSPEL CAME TO YOU (1 THESSALONIANS 1:5)

A. In word – The preaching

- i. *Romans 10:14 ¹⁴ How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?*
- ii. *“Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words if necessary.” – (false) NOT St Francis of Assisi... “Our man clearly spent a great deal of time using his words when he preached, “sometimes preaching in up to five villages a day, often outdoors. In the country, Francis often spoke from a bale of straw or a granary doorway. In town, he would climb on a box or up steps in a public building. He preached to . . . any who gathered to hear the strange but fiery little preacher from Assisi.” He was sometimes so animated and passionate in his delivery that “his feet moved as if he were dancing.” – TGC <https://bit.ly/2VKGDQE> / His first biographer, Thomas of Celano*

B. In the Holy Spirit – The power

- i. Romans 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”
- ii. 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 “And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.”
- iii. About St. Francis of Assisi: “His words were neither hollow nor ridiculous, but filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, penetrating the marrow of the heart, so that listeners were turned to great amazement.” - His first biographer, Thomas of Celano
- iv. “What is preaching? Logic on fire! Preaching is theology coming through a man who is on fire. A true understanding and experience of the Truth must lead to this. I say again that a man who can speak about these things dispassionately has no right whatsoever to be in a pulpit; and should never be allowed to enter one.” - Martyn Lloyd-Jones

C. In much assurance/conviction – The persuasion

- i. The preachers were persuaded that God was genuinely at work. The people were persuaded that the message was real

D. In personal relationships – The person

- i. Discipleship IS relationship.
- ii. Philippians 4:9⁹ *The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.*

2. THE GOSPEL WORKS IN YOU (1THESSALONIANS 1:6-7,9)

A. It creates Obedience – “became followers” (Verse 6), “Turned to God from idols” (Verse 9)

B. It creates persecution – “much affliction” (Verse 6)

C. It creates joy – “joy of the Holy Spirit” (Verse 6)

D. It creates examples – Greek: type, pattern, copy (Verse 7)

- i. Same word translated “print” John 20:25²⁵ *The other disciples therefore said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” So he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the PRINT of the nails, and put my finger into the PRINT of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”*

3. THE GOSPEL GOES OUT FROM YOU (1 THESSALONIANS 1:8-10)

A. Their Report: They Sounded forth (Verse 8)

- i. "Sounded forth" means "a loud ringing sound, as of a trumpet blast."
– Guzik
- ii. *Luke 19:39–40³⁹ And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples." ⁴⁰ But He answered and said to them, "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out."*

B. Their Reputation: They Saw the fruit (Verse 9)

- i. The best advertisement for Christ and the Church is the people that have been changed.

C. His Return: They Expected the Son (Verse 10)

- i. *Titus 2:11–13¹¹ For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ*
- ii. *Acts 1:11¹¹ who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."*