



## **“LET’S BE AN ACTIVE FELLOWSHIP!”**

### **1 Thessalonians Chapter 2**

*Go for God!* ~ **There are five Actions of True Fellowship we must follow:**

> **ACTION POINT #1 – (v1-2) BE BOLD!**

- What happened in Philippi? Acts 16:11-34

> **ACTION POINT #2 – (v3-12) HAVE GODLY LEADERSHIP!**

- Observe the difference between ungodly and godly leadership:

**(v3-6) Ungodly Leadership:**

- *Teaches Error (sound doctrine ignored)*
- *Uncleanness (immorality)*
- *Deceit*
- *Pleasing men*
- *Flattering words*
- *Covetousness (it’s all about money/possessions)*
- *Seek glory from people*
- *Demands on people*

**(v7-12) Godly Leadership:**

- *Gentle*
- *Affectionately longs for people*
- *Imparting the gospel & their lives*
- *Laboring & toiling*
- *No burdens*
- *Preached the gospel of God*
- *Good behavior*
- *Encouragement, comfort & charged (to testify)*
- *Kingdom & Glory*

> **ACTION POINT #3 – (v13) BE ACTIVE IN GOD’S WORD!**

- Paul was thankful that the believers believed in God’s Word and allowed God’s Word to work out the will of God in their lives. Notice that the Word of God **EFFECTIVELY WORKS!**

~ **The work of God’s Word includes:**

- *saving (Rom. 10:17; 1 Pet. 1:23);*
- *teaching and training (2 Tim. 3:16,17);*
- *guiding (Ps. 119:105);*
- *counseling (Ps. 119:24);*
- *reviving (Ps. 119:154);*
- *restoring (Ps. 19:7);*
- *warning and rewarding (Ps. 19:11);*
- *nourishing (1 Pet. 2:2);*

- *judging (Heb. 4:12);*
- *sanctifying (John 17:17);*
- *freeing (John 8:31,32);*
- *enriching (Col. 3:16);*
- *protecting (Ps. 119:11);*
- *strengthening (Ps. 119:28);*
- *making wise (Ps. 119:17–100);*
- *rejoicing the heart (Ps. 19:8);*
- *prospering (Josh. 1:8,9).*

(Love, learn and live the Word of God! - Psalm 19:7-11 - *The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them Your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward.*)

- Warren Wiersbe writes, “The Word of God within us is a great source of power in times of testing and suffering. If we appreciate the Word (with all our heart), appropriate the Word (through our mind), and apply the Word (according to His will), then the whole person will be controlled by God's Word, and He will give us the victory.”

> **ACTION POINT #4 – (v14-16) ENDURE PERSECUTION!**

- **TRUE SALVATION endures PERSECUTION!** Jesus spoke of past and present persecutions against God’s prophets and Himself through a parable in **Matthew 21:33-46**; and later with historical facts in **Matthew 23:29-39**.

- When we are persecuted, we must embrace the words of our Savior in Matthew 5:10-12 - *Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

> **ACTION POINT #5 – (v17-20) BEWARE AND BE JOYFUL!**

- **Warning:** Beware Satan will try to **HINDER** the work of God in your life, family, and church by:

(1) *tempting us to disobedience (Gen. 3:4-5);*

(2) *inflicting us with disease (Job 2:7);*

*(3) twisting the Scriptures (Mt. 4:6);*

*(4) living with anger (Eph. 4:26-27);*

*(5) appearing as an angel of light (2 Co. 11:14);*

*(6) producing false doctrines (1 Tim. 4:1).*

- Peter said in 1 Peter 5:8-10 - *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.*

- **How does Paul endure persecutions and afflictions?** It is for the JOY of others coming to **SALVATION** through the LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST and then one day going to **HEAVEN!** JESUS IS *COMING!*

- The Greek word for *COMING* is *parousia* which means Christ's "PRESENCE;" Wuest the Greek scholar writes, "**When used of the return of Christ, at the rapture of the church, it signifies, not merely His momentary "coming" for His saints, but His presence with them from that moment until His revelation and manifestation to the world (Matthew 24:27; Revelation 19:11-21). In some passages the word gives prominence to the beginning of that period, the course of the period being implied, 1 Corinthians 15:23; 1 Thessalonians 4:15; 5:23; 2 Thessalonians 2:1; James 5:7-8; 2 Peter 3:4.**"

> **Let us be an "ACTIVE FELLOWSHIP" by SOUL-WINNING, WORSHIPPING GOD, following HIS WORD, and let's be READY FOR THE RAPTURE of the BRIDE OF CHRIST!**