

# DUNAMIS

Power Hour

for the love of the Word

----- journey through the Bible -----



**THE WORD :  
HEARD AND LIVED**

# Overview

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Pauls teaching in Thessalonica Acts 17

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# Introduction: Background

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Author : Apostle Paul

Written between AD 50 and 51

1 Thessalonians is considered the earliest preserved letter written by Paul

Thessalonica was the capital city of the Roman province of Macedonia

Located on the famous Via Egnatia, a major military highway that ran from the east to the west .

A major trading area with a natural harbor

Thessalonica visited by Paul, Timothy and Silas for a short period

Macedonian call : Acts 16:9. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood  
And pleaded with him, saying; "Come over to Macedonia and help us."



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# Paul's teaching in Thessalonica:

## Acts 17

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- Following the prompting of the Holy Spirit , Paul went to Thessalonica and stayed there for a short period teaching in the synagogue, and many responded
- Acts 17:4 And some of them were persuaded and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas
- Jews reacted by raising a mob and attacked the house of Jason where Paul had been staying but not finding him, they took Jason, made him pay a bail and let him go. Why ?
- Acts 17:6b “These who have turned the world upside down and have come here too. 7: Jason had harbored them, and these are all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king – Jesus .
- This was considered more a civil rebellion by calling another Lord as this title was reserved for Caesar!
- Note: The Jews incited the same violence in succession in Philippi, Thessalonica and Berea and each time Paul and the others had to flee the cities by night



# Word is Heard

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The impact of Paul's ministry to the Thessalonians was powerful and had great impact both in the town but also to regions around Thessalonica despite only being there for a short time

1Thess; 1:3-9 remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father. knowing beloved brethren , your election by God. For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance , as you know what kind of men were among you for your sake. And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit. so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth , not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith towards God has gone out so that we do not need to say anything For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God .

Here again the conduct of Paul had an impact on the lives of the people in Thessalonica



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# Word is Heard

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- Paul did not try to please others in ways that displeased God
- Paul did not try to capture others by flattery
- Paul was not covetous of what others had
- Paul was not seeking glory for himself out of his work
- Paul kept at his task day and night
- Paul always encouraged others
- Above is covered in 1 Thess. 2:1-12
- 1 Thess. 2:13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing , because when you received the word of God which you heard from us , you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe
- 1 Thess. 2:4: But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts



# Life in Three Tenses

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1 Thess. 1:9 For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you , and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God 10. and to wait for His Son from heaven , whom He raised from the dead , even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come .

**Past Tense :** 1 Thess. 1:9 **turned to God :** to become a child of God there must be a turning away from sin and unbelief. We must forsake the numerous and varied idols in our lives or anything that would hinder us from following God.

**Present Tense :** 1 Thess. 1:9 **to serve the living and true God :** Idol worship was a great belief and cult at the time and to turn away from a silent idol to a Living God was a miracle . Breaks tradition .

**Future Tense :** 1 Thess. 1:10 **to wait for His son from heaven:** The believers in Thessalonica were serving and waiting for the return of Jesus Christ ! They had not lost hope as some have done already . Titus 2:13 Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ .

Jesus promised He would return when we least expect it . Are we ready and waiting for His glorious appearance ?





# The Return of Jesus Christ is confirmed

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- Every chapter in 1 Thess. Ends with the promise of the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. A future event
- 1Thess. 1:10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come .
- 1 Thess. 2:19. For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing ? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?
- 1 Thess. 3:13 So that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.
- 1 Thess. 4:17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus, we shall always be with the Lord.
- 1 Thess. 5;23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely and may your whole spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- When will the Lord Return ?
- 1 Thess. 5:2. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.
- Mathew 24:36 But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only .
- **REMAIN ALERT; REMAIN WATCHFULL; REMAIN READY; BE BUSY WITH THE LORD !!!**



# What of those that Sleep ?

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The Thessalonians were used to the arrival of dignitaries or prominent people at their city and were therefore used to going out into the streets to welcome them, shouting praises, seeing them honoured and a great spectacle being outworked.

They then, by faith, accepted the return of the Lord Jesus Christ with no reservations and were waiting for him to return at any day!

However, they were concerned as to what would happen to those who had died ( fallen asleep ) before His return.

1 Thess.4:13-16 But I do not want you to be ignorant brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord , that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.



# The Power of Love

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- The preaching and lifestyle of Paul, revealed a personal relationship that was available to the Thessalonians through Jesus Christ. This was something that they did not know or had experienced before. Now they had a purpose, there was meaning and a joy of life.
- The cultic lifestyle ( Hellenistic ) they had before brought isolation, self-centeredness, individualism, serving idols, observing rituals and incorrect beliefs. There was no brotherly love or relationship.
- There is now a response to a PERSONAL God. A God that cares, love, offers salvation, has come to redeem them, offers them hope and an eternal future!
- A gift of immortality and resurrection. Forgiveness of sin, the introduction of a Christ centered family. A permanent personal relationship.
- PAUL VALIDATED THE MESSAGE OF LOVE BY LOVING
- GOD SEEKS TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU!



# The Word Lived

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Personal inner transformation touched every aspect of their lives

All the affirmations of God must be taken by faith

Now came the capacity to care for each other, have Godly influence and impact in the city and in the surrounding regions. They received the power to become righteous and outlived it. Barriers between different cultures were breached at Christ's transforming power brought a new freedom to love.

1 Thess. 3:12 And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you.

1 Thess. 4:9-10 But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; and indeed you do so to all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more .

John 13:34 A new commandment I give to you , that you love one another: as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

2 Thess. 1:3. We are bound to thank God always for you brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly and the love of every one of you all abounds towards each other



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# The word Lived

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- They persevered in afflictions
- Compromise was replaced by steadfastness and commitment
- Gods' transformation worked in them to make them more and more like the Lord and disappointment and shame was overcome
- Development of a commitment to good deeds was established and behavior took on a fresh meaning as every behavior could reflect credit to God
- Rom. 12:12 and do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
- Church in the scripture is a relational term! Always in view are the people. God chooses to work His transformation in human lives. Love that reaches out and seeks to draw other close
- 1 Thess. 2:11. as you know how we exhorted and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children



# The Word Lived

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- 1 Thess. 5:16. Rejoice always
- 1 Thess. 5:17. Pray without ceasing
- 1 Thess. 5:18. in everything give thanks
- 1 Thess. 5:19 Quench not the Spirit
- 1 Thess. 5:20 Despise not prophecies
- 1 Thess. 5:21 test all things
- 1 Thess. 5:21 Hold fast what is Good.
- 1Thess. 5:22 Abstain from Evil



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**THANK YOU**