

Cornerstone Faith of West Liberty  
1 Thessalonians 1:5-10 – The challenge of the Gospel  
July 13, 2025

I. How the Gospel comes

a. In Word

- It must be proclaimed (Rom. 10:14; Heb. 2:3)

**Romans 10:14 (NKJV)** *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?*

b. In Power (Zech 4:6; Rom. 1:16-17; 1 Cor. 4:20; Eph 6:10)

**Romans 1:16-17 (NKJV)** *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. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."*

- o The greatest miracle is not the gifts of the Holy Spirit such as prophecy or healing—the greatest miracle is salvation through the Gospel.

**1 Corinthians 4:20 (NKJV)** *For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.*

c. In the Holy Ghost (Rom. 8:1-2, 13-14; 1 Cor. 2:4-5)

- No one is saved without the Holy Spirit

**1 Corinthians 2:4-5 (NKJV)** *And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup> that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.*

d. In much assurance (Rom. 8:15-16; 2 Cor. 13:14; Gal. 5:22-25; 2 Pet. 3:18)

- You can know you are saved/redeemed/regenerated/ etc. How—the fruit of the Holy Spirit, growing in grace, etc. (i.e. maturity)

**Galatians 5:22-25 (NKJV)** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*

e. By the lifestyle example of the believer

**Hebrews 5:12-14 (NKJV)** *For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. <sup>13</sup> For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. <sup>14</sup> But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

II. Working it out in life

a. Become followers of godly people (Matt. 28:19; 1 Pet. 3:15-16; 1 Cor. 11:1)

- Go and make disciples—we all need examples

**1 Corinthians 11:1 (NKJV)** *Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.*

b. Become followers of Jesus (Matt. 16:24; 10:37-39)

- A disciple is one who patterns their life and teaching after another—our primary example is Jesus Christ

**Matthew 10:37-39 (NKJV)** *He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. <sup>38</sup> And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. <sup>39</sup> He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.*

c. Persecution will come to the faithful (John 16:33; Acts 14:22b; 1 Thess. 3:4; Phil 1:29)

- The natural result of following Jesus will be persecution

**Philippians 1:29 (NKJV)** *For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,*

d. Joy in the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22; Rom. 14:17, 15:13)

- Joy is one of the manifestations of the fruit of the Spirit

**Romans 14:17 (NKJV)** *for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

e. Others will see and hear (Rom. 1:8; 1 Thess. 1:8)

- How are we known in our community? When people speak about us what do they say?

**Romans 1:8 (NKJV)** *First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.*

### III. Paul's testimony of how they received the gospel

a. The Thessalonians turned to God from idols (Acts 14:14-15; 1 Cor. 12:2; Gal. 4:8-9)

**1 Corinthians 12:2 (NKJV)** *You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led.*

b. The Thessalonians serve a living God (2 Cor. 6:16; 1 Tim. 4:10; Heb. 12:22-24)

**1 Timothy 4:10 (NKJV)** *For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.*

c. The Thessalonians wait for Jesus' return (Acts 1:9-11; John 14:1-3; Matt. 25:31-32; Mark 13:24-27; Luke 21:25-28; Rev. 1:7)

**Revelation 1:7 (NKJV)** *Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.*

### IV. Challenge for us today—dedication and devotion to Jesus

- How bad do we want to live transformed lives as it takes dedication and energy to live in opposition to the world around us (Gal. 5:16-17)?
- Do we REALLY want to be seen as strangers in the world—or just melt in—we choose. Many American Christians do not want to stick out—to be seen as Jesus freaks (or worse). But can they call themselves genuine Christians (1 John 3:7-8, 10)?