



## I THESSALONIANS

### Part Sixteen: "Faith Receives God's Word"

#### I Thessalonians 2:13

*For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.*

In I Thessalonians 2:13, Paul first rejoices in the faith of the people of the church in Thessalonica, then he describes their faith.

### **Faith is inseparably tied to God's Words.**

1. Faith begins when you receive the Word of God.

*received the word of God which ye heard of us*

2. Faith flourishes when you receive it AS the Word of God.

*ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God*

3. Faith becomes more effective the more you believe

the Word of God.

*which effectually worketh also in you that believe*

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## Preparation for Prayer

*The faith which creates powerful praying is the faith which centers itself on a powerful Person. Faith in Christ's ability to do and to do greatly, is the faith which prays greatly. Faith is obedient, it goes when commanded. Yet faith is called upon, and that right often, to wait in patience before God, and is prepared for God's seeming delays in answering prayer. Faith does not grow disheartened because prayer is not immediately honored; it takes God at his Word, and lets him take what time he chooses in fulfilling his purposes, and in carrying on his work. There is bound to be much delay and long days of waiting for true faith, but faith accepts the conditions—knows there will be delays in answering prayer, and regards such delays as times of testing, in the which, it is privileged to show its mettle, and the stern stuff of which it is made.*

-EM Bounds, "Prayer and Faith"