

1 Thessalonians 1:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.

Analysis

For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance—Paul distinguishes mere rhetoric from pneumatic reality. The phrase *ouk en logō monon alla kai en dynamei* (οὐκ ἐν λόγῳ μόνον ἀλλὰ καὶ ἐν δυνάμει, 'not in word only but also in power') echoes 1 Corinthians 2:4-5, contrasting human persuasion with divine demonstration. *Dynamis* (δύναμις, 'power') refers to the Spirit's convicting work; *plērophoria* (πληροφορία, 'full assurance') describes the deep conviction produced by Spirit-empowered preaching.

As ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake—Paul's character authenticated his message. The missionaries' suffering for the gospel (Acts 17:5-9) proved they weren't in it for gain. True gospel preaching combines doctrinal content ('word'), supernatural power (Holy Spirit conviction), deep persuasion (assurance), and credible messengers (godly character). The Thessalonians didn't merely assent to propositions—they experienced God's transforming power through the word.

Historical Context

Paul had come to Thessalonica from Philippi, where he and Silas had been beaten and imprisoned (Acts 16:22-24). Arriving with wounds still fresh, they preached boldly despite previous suffering. This suffering-servant pattern authenticated the

message—why endure such cost for a lie? The Holy Spirit used Paul's courageous testimony to produce deep conviction in hearers. The rapid conversion of Thessalonians, including prominent women (Acts 17:4), demonstrated power beyond human persuasion.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How do you distinguish between intellectually accepted truth and Spirit-empowered conviction in your own faith experience?
2. What role does the messenger's character and willingness to suffer play in validating the gospel's power?
3. In what ways have you experienced the gospel as 'power' and not merely 'word' in your conversion or spiritual growth?

Interlinear Text

ὅτι	τὸ	εὐαγγέλιον	ἡμῶν	οὐκ	ἐγενήθημεν	εἰς	ὑμᾶς
For		gospel	our	not	came	unto	you
G3754	G3588	G2098	G2257	G3756	G1096	G1519	G5209
ἐν	λόγῳ	μόνον	ἀλλὰ	καὶ	ἐν	δυνάμει	καὶ ἐν
among	word	only	but	also	among	power	also among
G1722	G3056	G3440	G235	G2532	G1722	G1411	G2532 G1722
πνεύματι	ἀγίῳ	καὶ	ἐν	πληροφορία	πολλῇ	καθὼς	
Ghost	the Holy	also	among	assurance	much	as	
G4151	G40	G2532	G1722	G4136	G4183	G2531	
οἶδατε	οἷοι	ἐγενήθημεν	ἐν	ὑμῖν	δι'	ὑμᾶς	
ye know	what manner of men	came	among	you	for	you	
G1492	G3634	G1096	G1722	G5213	G1223	G5209	

Additional Cross-References

Mark 16:20 (Word): And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 (Word): 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.

2 Thessalonians 2:14 (Parallel theme): Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

1 Peter 1:12 (Holy): Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

Colossians 2:2 (Parallel theme): That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;

Acts 11:21 (Parallel theme): And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.

Ephesians 3:20 (Parallel theme): Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

Romans 1:16 (Parallel theme): For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

2 Timothy 2:8 (Parallel theme): Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel:

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