



The church of the Lord Jesus Christ is approaching the finish line! In these last days you want to be sure that you finish strong!

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.—1 Corinthians 9:24-25

The Thessalonians church had an outstanding witness for Jesus! Lets ind out why they were such a joy to Paul. TEXT 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

FIRST, Your heart must be established

2,3) 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.

1. faith that produces corresponding action
2. Love that brings obedience and service
3. hope in His soon return brings steadfastness

SECOND, Know you are called and equipped to finish

4,5) 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...

1. They were called and equipped
2. Called: to know Him and make Him known
3. Equipped: the new birth & spirit baptism
4. He saved us... by [the] cleansing [bath] of the new birth (regeneration) and renewing of the Holy Spirit—Titus 3:5 AMP
5. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses—Acts 1:8 AMP



THIRD, joy for the journey

6,7) 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.

1. responding to God's Spirit working within your heart—joy
2. The house of Jason—Acts 17
3. Paul lived this way...

At the midnight hour he sang praises

In the belly of prison he wrote rejoice again I say rejoice

That I will finish my course with joy!

FOURTH, Be Bold for Him

8-10) For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward 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, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath come.

FINALLY, submit to God

...to God's Word

For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe. (1 Thessalonians 2:13 NASB)

...to spiritual authority

as we night and day keep praying most earnestly that we may see your face, and may complete what is lacking in your faith? so that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints. (1 Thessalonians 3:10, 13 NASB)