

# “Love Lifted Me Recovery Ministries”

## First Thessalonians Bible Study —

### I Thessalonians 1:6-10 & 2:1- 2 Lesson #2

\*\*INSTRUCTIONS: Read the entire section of Scripture in First Thessalonians before starting to look up the other Scripture verses and filling in the blanks. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding as you read God’s word. Most Scriptures used are from the New King James Version.

6-7 And you became followers of us and 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.

•**James 1:2-3** “My brethren, count it all \_\_\_\_\_ when you fall into various \_\_\_\_\_, knowing that the \_\_\_\_\_ of your \_\_\_\_\_ produces \_\_\_\_\_.”

•**Romans 5:3-4** “And not only that, but we also \_\_\_\_\_ (are JOYFUL) in \_\_\_\_\_, knowing that \_\_\_\_\_ produces \_\_\_\_\_; and perseverance, character; and character, hope.”

**Definition: “TRIBULATION”** — Distress or SUFFERING resulting from oppression or persecution; DIFFICULTIES, TRIALS and **TESTING of our FAITH.**

**Definition: “Having RECEIVED the WORD in much AFFLICTION, with JOY of the Holy Spirit”** —

The dictionary says AFFLICTION means “pain, suffering, distress, calamity.” **We all go through trials, tribulations, testings and AFFLICTIONS** in this world, because this world is under the curse of sin. **Some of our trials and afflictions are allowed by God to TEST our FAITH and strengthen us**, but many are just from living in this old sinful world. “Testing” means to qualify or prove by way of being put through certain conditions or procedures, in order to determine the quality or character of something. “Trial” means a tryout or experiment to test the quality, value or usefulness of something. Machines and automobiles are put through “stress tests” to see if they will hold up under pressure and not break or fall apart.

•**Acts 5:41** “So they departed from the presence of the council, \_\_\_\_\_ that they were counted worthy to \_\_\_\_\_ shame for His \_\_\_\_\_.”

•**John 16:33** “These things I have spoken unto you, that in \_\_\_\_\_ you might have \_\_\_\_\_. In the world you shall have \_\_\_\_\_, but be of good \_\_\_\_\_; I have \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_.”

•**I Peter 1:7** “That the genuineness of your \_\_\_\_\_, being much more precious than \_\_\_\_\_ that perishes, though it is \_\_\_\_\_ by fire, may be found to \_\_\_\_\_, honor and \_\_\_\_\_ at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

•**Matthew 5:10-12** “\_\_\_\_\_ are those who are \_\_\_\_\_ for righteousness \_\_\_\_\_, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed (happy) are you when they revile and \_\_\_\_\_ you, and \_\_\_\_\_ all kinds of \_\_\_\_\_ against you falsely for My \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ and be exceedingly \_\_\_\_\_, for \_\_\_\_\_ is your \_\_\_\_\_ in heaven, for so they \_\_\_\_\_ the prophets who were before you.”

•**Hebrews 11:17-19** “By \_\_\_\_\_ Abraham, when he was \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ up Isaac, and he who had received the promises \_\_\_\_\_ up his only begotten \_\_\_\_\_, of whom it was said, ‘In Isaac your seed shall be called,’ accounting (believing) that \_\_\_\_\_ was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.”

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 to COME**.

• **I John 5:20-21** “And we know that the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ has come and has given us an \_\_\_\_\_, that we may know Him who is \_\_\_\_\_; and we are in \_\_\_\_\_ who is \_\_\_\_\_, in His Son \_\_\_\_\_.  
This is the \_\_\_\_\_ God and \_\_\_\_\_ life. Little children, \_\_\_\_\_ yourselves from \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Definition: “Your FAITH toward GOD has gone out”** – This means that the church in Thessalonika had a **POSITIVE WITNESS** to the unbelievers in the community around them. Jesus commanded us to **PREACH** the gospel to all people, **but it is vitally important that our LIFESTYLE backs up the message we are preaching**. **If our LIFESTYLE and WALK with the Lord does NOT reflect positively on the gospel message**, people will not listen to us.

• **Colossians 1:9-10** “For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_, and to \_\_\_\_\_ that you may be \_\_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_\_ of His \_\_\_\_\_ in all \_\_\_\_\_ and spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ that you may have a \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.”

• **Ephesians 4:1-2** “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ you to have a \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ with which you were \_\_\_\_\_, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Definition: “TURNED to GOD from IDOLS to serve the LIVING and TRUE GOD”** – Most of the Gentiles (non-Jewish people) who came to Christ back in those days **had been IDOL WORSHIPERS**. There are still people in this world who worship **IDOLS**, actual statues and images of things, rather than worshipping the one true God, but **an idol or false god can actually be anything or any person who takes your time, energy, and devotion AWAY from the true God**. It could be your addiction, or a loved one or family member, or money (workaholics or gamblers, this is your idol). Materialism (wanting to accumulate **THINGS**), **FAME**, **POWER**, excitement, can also be idols.

• **I Corinthians 12:2** “You know that \_\_\_\_\_ were \_\_\_\_\_, carried away to these dumb \_\_\_\_\_, however you were \_\_\_\_\_.”

• **I Psalm 115:4-** “Their \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ hands. They have \_\_\_\_\_, but they do not \_\_\_\_\_; eyes they have, but they \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_; they have \_\_\_\_\_, but they do not \_\_\_\_\_; noses they have, but they do not smell; they have hands, but they do not handle; \_\_\_\_\_ they have, but they do not \_\_\_\_\_; nor do they mutter through their throat. Those who make them are like them; so is \_\_\_\_\_ who \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Definition: “JESUS who delivers us from the WRATH to COME”** – **The WRATH of God** is God’s **ANGER** against **SIN** — the **PUNISHMENT** that **WE DESERVE** for violating God’s laws and falling short of His perfect standards. God’s wrath and punishment for sin **ABIDES** or **REMAINS** on anyone who **REJECTS God’s ONLY WAY of escape from that wrath**, which is through Jesus. We

can ESCAPE God's wrath when we BELIEVE in Jesus as our Savior, because **Jesus took upon Himself the WRATH of God** and the PUNISHMENT for our sins.

• **John 3:36** "He who \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_ life; and he who does \_\_\_\_\_ believe the \_\_\_\_\_ shall \_\_\_\_\_ see \_\_\_\_\_, but the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ abides on \_\_\_\_\_."

• **Romans 5:9** "Much more then, having now been \_\_\_\_\_ by His \_\_\_\_\_, we shall be \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ through Him (Jesus)."

• **Ephesians 5:6** "Let no one \_\_\_\_\_ you with empty words, for because of these things the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ comes upon the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_."

• **Romans 1:18** "For the \_\_\_\_\_ of God is revealed from \_\_\_\_\_ against all \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness."

• **I Thessalonians 5:9** "For God did not appoint us to \_\_\_\_\_, but to obtain \_\_\_\_\_ through our \_\_\_\_\_."

**Definition: "SONS of DISOBEDIENCE"** – According to Ephesians 2:2, the "sons of disobedience" are UNBELIEVERS; those who are still under Satan's control, and have not been born again. In Ephesians 2:3 they are also called "**children of WRATH.**" Since they have NOT accepted God's way of forgiveness for their sins, they have nothing to look forward to except the WRATH of GOD and eternity in HELL.

• **John 3:18** "He who believes in Him (Jesus) is NOT \_\_\_\_\_; but he who does not believe is \_\_\_\_\_, because he has NOT believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

• **Ephesians 2:1-3** "And you *He made alive*, who were \_\_\_\_\_ in your trespasses and \_\_\_\_\_, in which you once walked according to the course (system) of this world, according to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the power of the air (Satan), the \_\_\_\_\_ who now \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, among whom also we \_\_\_\_\_ once \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature children of \_\_\_\_\_, just as the others."

## Chapter 2

1--2 For you yourselves know, brethren, that **our coming to you was NOT in VAIN.** But even after **we had SUFFERED before and were spitefully treated at Philippi**, as you know, we were bold in our God **to speak to you the gospel of God in much CONFLICT..**

• **Galatians 2:2** "And I went up by revelation, and communicated to them that \_\_\_\_\_ which I \_\_\_\_\_ among the Gentiles, but privately to those who were of reputation, \_\_\_\_\_ by any means I \_\_\_\_\_, or had \_\_\_\_\_, in \_\_\_\_\_."

• **Philippians 1::29-30** "For to you it has been granted on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_, not only to \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, but also to \_\_\_\_\_ for His \_\_\_\_\_, having the same \_\_\_\_\_ which you \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ and now \_\_\_\_\_ is in \_\_\_\_\_."

**Definition: "Lest by any means I MIGHT RUN, or had RUN, in VAIN"** – Many times, the Bible talks about **the Christian life as RUNNING a RACE.** God's word says we should run that race with the object of winning the prize. To "run in vain" would mean you had entered the race, but dropped out or failed to finish somehow, and that **NOTHING was ACCOMPLISHED.** **Vain means EMPTY, WORTHLESS or POINTLESS.** Paul is NOT talking about running to win our salvation, because

salvation is a gift, but rather that **ONCE WE ARE SAVED, it's as if we've signed up for the race**, and now we are running to win a prize. The "prize" or prizes we could win are **the REWARDS we will RECEIVE in HEAVEN for our FAITHFUL SERVICE to GOD (I Corinthians 3:11-15)**. Again, it is NOT trying to win, earn or gain our salvation, but rather rewards to be received when we meet Jesus in heaven.

• **Hebrews 12:1** "Therefore, we also, since we are \_\_\_\_\_ by so great a cloud of \_\_\_\_\_, let us lay aside every \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ which so easily ensnares us (trips us up), and let us \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ that is set before us."

• **I Corinthians 9:24** "Do you not know that those who \_\_\_\_\_ in a \_\_\_\_\_ all \_\_\_\_\_, but one receives the \_\_\_\_\_? \_\_\_\_\_ in such a \_\_\_\_\_ that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the \_\_\_\_\_ is temperate (self-controlled, disciplined) in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable \_\_\_\_\_, but we for an imperishable \_\_\_\_\_. Therefore I \_\_\_\_\_ thus: \_\_\_\_\_ with uncertainty. Thus I \_\_\_\_\_: not as one who beats the air."

**Definition: "We were BOLD in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much CONFLICT"** – Conflict means fighting, disturbance, arguments, or in other words, not easy going for Paul. The last time **Paul was in Philippi, he and his traveling companion Silas were arrested, beaten, and thrown in jail all for only speaking the truth about Jesus Christ**. Of course, God used that incident, and He caused an earthquake that let all the prisoners out of the prison, and resulted in the conversion of the jailer and his whole family to Christ. However, Paul and Silas still **suffered and were treated badly**. **The BOLDNESS with which Paul preached the GOSPEL** (and which is available to us, too), in spite of the persecution and suffering he received, **comes only from the Holy Spirit**.

• **Acts 16:22-25** "Then the multitude rose up together \_\_\_\_\_ them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and \_\_\_\_\_ them to be \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_. And when they had laid many stripes on them, they \_\_\_\_\_ them into \_\_\_\_\_, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner \_\_\_\_\_ and fastened their \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_. But at midnight \_\_\_\_\_ and Silas were \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to God, and the [other] prisoners were \_\_\_\_\_ to them."

• **Acts 4:31** "And when they had \_\_\_\_\_, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all \_\_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_\_, and they spoke the \_\_\_\_\_ of God with \_\_\_\_\_."

• **Ephesians 6:19** "And for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my \_\_\_\_\_ to make known the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_."