
Words of Truth

I Thessalonians 1:5

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“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” (I Thessalonians 1:5). We are going to jump into our study by looking first at the phrase *“our Gospel.”* The phrase *“our Gospel”* appears two other times in the King James Version of the Scriptures (II Corinthians 4:3 and II Thessalonians 2:14). Paul used the phrase *“my Gospel”* in the letter to the saints in Rome and to Timothy (Romans 2:16, Romans 16:25, and II Timothy 2:8). Paul knew that if he taught any other Gospel, he would be accursed (Galatians 1:6-9). So, what does that mean? It means this: *“But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts... According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust”* (I Thessalonians 2:4 and I Timothy 1:11).

Next, let’s consider what it means that the Gospel came to them not only in word, but also in power. The Gospel is certainly, on its own, powerful (Romans 1:16). This *“power”* is however different. The word translated *“power”* [δύναμις] is defined as: “force (literally or figuratively); specifically miraculous power (usually by implication a miracle itself): - ability, abundance, meaning, might (-ily, -y, -y deed), (worker of) miracle (-s), power, strength, violence, mighty (wonderful) work” (Strong’s # 1411). Remember, prior to the completion of the revelation of the word of God, the Gospel was confirmed by miraculous works. Notice: *“Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen”* (Mark 16:14-20).

In connection to that power, you have the work of the Holy Ghost. This too was part of the confirmation process prior to the completion of the written word of God (I Corinthians 12:3-13:13). The Scriptures explain this well. Notice: *“O foolish Galatians, who hath*

bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain. He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith... In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory... Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will” (Galatians 3:1-5, Ephesians 1:13-14, and Hebrews 2:1-4)?

A third point was made in relation to the confirmation of the word. The word “assurance” [πληροφορία] appears in our text. That term is defined as: “entire confidence: - (full) assurance” (Strong’s # 4136). That same Greek term is translated “full assurance” in three other Scriptures (Colossians 2:2, Hebrews 6:11, and Hebrews 10:22). Each one of those passages, in their contexts, provide us with a good explanation of why that word appears in the context we are studying. Paul, Silvanus, and Timotheus were able ministers of the Gospel. They taught and provided full assurance of the message of salvation. Think about how important it is for the messenger to fully believe the message. Peter wrote about that principle in a manner that should clarify any questions as to its meaning (II Peter 1:16-21).

In addition to the evidences set before the Thessalonians, the Thessalonians were also able to see the word of God lived faithfully by Paul, Silvanus, and Timotheus (I Thessalonians 2:1-11 and II Thessalonians 3:7). Teachers of the word of God must practice what they preach. Notice what Paul, through the inspiration of God, wrote to Timothy and Titus on this matter: “*Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee... In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you” (I Timothy 4:12-16 and Titus 2:7-8). Like them, we must also live faithfully before others (Philippians 2:14-16).*