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**THE LETTERS TO THE THESSALONIANS:**  
LIVING LIVES PREPARED FOR OUR SAVIOR'S RETURN

**THE GOAL:**

PRACTICALLY APPLY PROPHETIC TRUTH

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**1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-16**

You know, brothers, that our visit to you was not a failure. We had previously suffered and been insulted in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in spite of strong opposition. For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts. You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness. We were not looking for praise from men, not from you or anyone else.

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**1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-16**

As apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you, but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us. Surely you remember, brothers, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you. You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed.

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**1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-16**

For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory. And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe. For you, brothers, became imitators of God's churches in Judea, which are in Christ Jesus:

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**1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-16**

You suffered from your own countrymen the same things those churches suffered from the Jews, who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and also drove us out. They displease God and are hostile to all men in their effort to keep us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. In this way they always heap up their sins to the limit. The wrath of God has come upon them at last.

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**A THEME OF SUFFERING:**

**PAUL:**  
suffering as a servant of God  
proclaiming the Gospel

**THE THESSALONIANS:**  
suffering as believers living out  
the Gospel

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**WHY ALL THIS SUFFERING?**

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**1**

**1 THESSALONIANS  
2:1-16**

**A DEFENSE AND REINFORCEMENT  
OF SPIRITUAL  
AUTHORITY**

**VERSE 1**

“Our visit to you was not a failure.”

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1 THESSALONIANS  
2:1-16

# 2

## CHALLENGES ACCOMPANIED THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL.

**VERSE 2A**  
"We had previously suffered and been insulted."

**VERSE 2B**  
"We dared to tell you His gospel in spite of strong opposition."

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1 THESSALONIANS  
2:1-16

# 3

## A TEMPLATE FOR DISCIPLESHIP:

The process through which the gospel took root and transformed their lives.

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# BOLD PROCLAMATION

**VERSE 2B**  
"With the help of our God we dare to tell you His gospel in spite of strong opposition."

**THE NEW BIRTH OF A DISCIPLE CANNOT HAPPEN WITHOUT THE BOLD PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL**

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# TRUSTWORTHY MESSENGERS

## VERSES 3-6

"For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts. You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness. We were not looking for praise from men, not from you or anyone else."

**IF THE DISCIPLE-MAKER IS NOT TRUSTWORTHY,  
THEN THE GOSPEL MESSAGE WILL NOT  
BE TRUSTED OR RECEIVED.**

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# NURTURING CARE

## VERSES 7-8

"We were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us."

**BIBLICAL DISCIPLESHIP IS AN INTENSIVE,  
NURTURING PROCESS BY WHICH A SPIRITUAL  
MENTOR LEADS A NEW DISCIPLE FROM  
IMMATURITY TO INDEPENDENCE.**

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# SELFLESS SACRIFICE

## VERSE 9

"Surely you remember...our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you."

## VERSE 7A

"As apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you."

**DISCIPLESHIP OFTEN COMES AT A HIGH  
PRICE: THE LAYING DOWN OF SELF.**

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**BIBLICAL BEHAVIOR**

**VERSE 10**  
"You are witnesses of how holy, righteous and blameless we were."

**HOLY** = THE CHARACTER OF GOD; SET APART FROM ALL THINGS UNGODLY

**RIGHTEOUS** = RIGHT LIVING; LIVING AS GOD COMMANDS/INTENDS

**BLAMELESS** = PURE; WITHOUT SIN

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**BIBLICAL BEHAVIOR**

**VERSE 10**  
"You are witnesses of how holy, righteous and blameless we were."

**DISCIPLE-MAKERS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO LIVE LIVES TRANSFORMED BY THE WORD AND PRESENCE OF GOD AS A TANGIBLE EXAMPLE FOR OTHER DISCIPLES TO FOLLOW.**

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**LOVING DIRECTION**

**VERSES 11-12**  
"We dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God."

**THE DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS IS RECEIVING LOVING DIRECTION FROM MENTORS AND TAKING RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE THAT FOR OTHERS.**

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# GOD-FOCUSED HUMILITY

## VERSE 13

"And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God...you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God."

**AS DISCIPLES, WE MUST STRIVE TO REMAIN IN THE HUMILITY OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN SAVED BY GOD AND LIVE UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF HIS WORD. THIS HAPPENS BY STAYING FOCUSED ON GOD HIMSELF.**

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# NEW IDENTITY SIMILAR SUFFERING

## VERSE 14

"For you, brothers, became imitators of God's churches in Judea, which are in Christ Jesus: You suffered from your own countrymen the same things those churches suffered from the Jews, who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and also drove us out."

## 1 THESSALONIANS 1:6

"You became imitators of us and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering you welcomed the message with joy."

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# NEW IDENTITY SIMILAR SUFFERING

**THE LIFE OF A DISCIPLE IN CHRIST IS TRULY A WHOLE NEW IDENTITY THAT MUST BE DISCOVERED THROUGH FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF OTHER BELIEVERS, AND PROVEN THROUGH SIMILAR TRIALS.**

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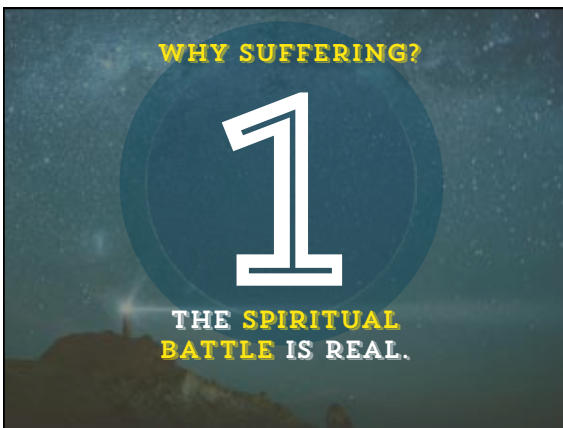
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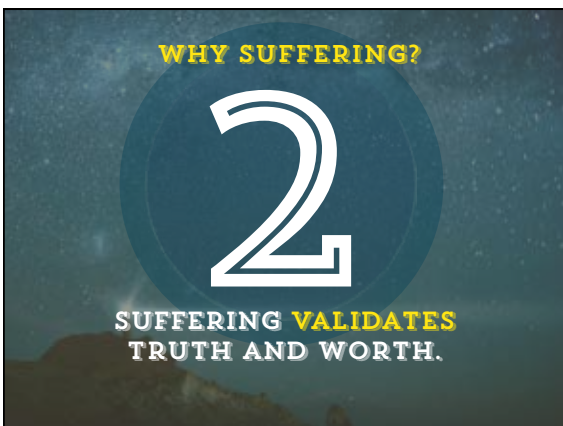
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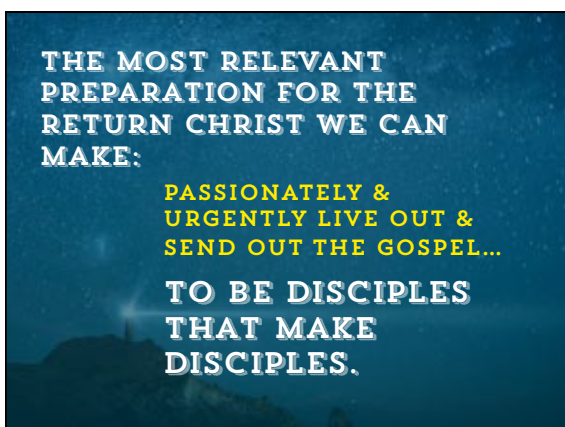
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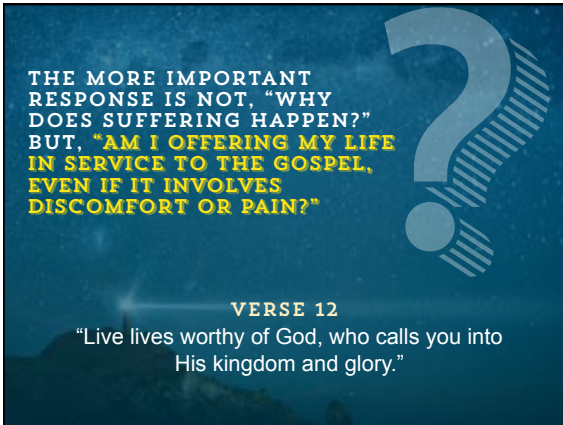
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THE MORE IMPORTANT  
RESPONSE IS NOT, "WHY  
DOES SUFFERING HAPPEN?"  
BUT, "AM I OFFERING MY LIFE  
IN SERVICE TO THE GOSPEL,  
EVEN IF IT INVOLVES  
DISCOMFORT OR PAIN?"

VERSE 12  
"Live lives worthy of God, who calls you into  
His kingdom and glory."

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IN THE  
TWINKLING  
OF AN  
EYE

INVEST IN THE THINGS  
THAT MATTER IN LIGHT  
OF HIS COMING

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