

1 Thessalonians 1:5b–10 ESVUK

⁵ You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. ⁹ For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

God's blueprint for authentic life

The green shoots of fruitful growth

1 Thessalonians 1:5b–10

1. The impression of God's word

Acts 17:2–4 In Thessalonica: “...*(Paul) reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying ‘This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ.’ And some of them were persuaded...*”

Acts 18:28 In Ephesus: “...*for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus.*”

2. The imitation of God's workers

“...received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit”

“the word of the Lord sounded forth from you...”

3. The impact on their lives

- they “*turned*”
- they “*served*”
- they “*waited*”

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is the opening act of God's New Creation which will come to fruition on the Day of Judgement.

Questions for discussion and reflection:

- How does having this ‘blueprint’ of the model start-up church help us as we think about our own lives and Christian groups?

Next week: The worker who generates healthy growth, 1 Thess 2:1–8, William Taylor