

## The Joy of Following > 1 Thessalonians 1:6-10

**1:6-8** *How disciples are made.* Paul highlights the cycle of discipleship with the Thessalonians themselves have been a direct part of. Paul, Silas, and Timothy exemplified the teachings of Christ to the Thessalonians, who then imitated that example themselves. Others in the surrounding regions saw what God had done in the Thessalonians, and this led to joy and encouragement. Disciples are those who are following Jesus by putting into practice what they are learning, and they then seek to be an example to others.

**1:9-10** *What disciples do.* Very practically, we read that the Thessalonians were following Christ in four distinct ways: they had turned away from worshiping anything or anyone other than Him, they were patiently awaiting Christ's return, they believed that Jesus truly was the Messiah, and they believed that His work would rescue them from their sins.

**Background:** Paul's visit to Thessalonica is recorded in Acts 17. The mission trip starts well, but ends with a riot and social unrest, leading to Paul and Silas quickly moving on.

**The Point:** The pattern of discipleship means living what Christ has taught and looking to influence others to do likewise. It is a pattern of imitating Christ and, therefore, imitating those who make it their aim to follow Christ.

**Head:** Know that Christ has called you to be a disciple.

**Heart:** Believe that discipleship is at the heart of the Gospel.

**Hands:** Are you willing to reveal enough of your life to others so that they can imitate Christ in you?

**Here is how I will apply these truths:** \_\_\_\_\_

---