

2:7-8 (NIV

Footsteps to Thessalonica

1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

^{2:7-8 / NIV} THESSALONICA WAS A UNIQUE CITY IN GREECE

“Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apolonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews.” Acts 17:1

The existence of a synagogue allowed Paul to practice his usual custom of ministry in a new town

He *“reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead and saying ‘This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ.’”* Acts 17:2-3

2:7-8 / NIV

THESSALONICA WAS A UNIQUE CITY IN GREECE

Next, Paul carried the gospel to the Marketplace, that great melting place of nationalities, where –

“A great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas” Acts 17:4

Thessalonica saw the birth of a new kind of church –

A Gentile church

They began their walk with Jesus with a clean slate

2:7-8 / NIV

THESSALONICA WAS A UNIQUE CITY IN GREECE

Ironically, the accusation against Paul and Silas revealed the power of the gospel –

“These who have turned the world upside down have come here too.” Acts 17:6

3:7-8 (NIV)
**PAUL HAD A HUGE CONCERN FOR THE
THESSALONIAN CHURCH**

Would they be faithful, or would they drift away from their commitment to Christ?

Would the seeds of faith he had planted in Thessalonica grow and flourish, or wither away?

^{2:7-8 (NIV)} TIME REVEALED THE ANSWER TO PAUL'S CONCERN

The spiritual seeds that Paul had planted grew deep roots, and produced a harvest of faith

“We give thanks always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father.”

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

What is the evidence the Holy Spirit is at work in a church?

Faith, Hope and Love

2:7-8 (11/11/14)

They had become a model for other churches to follow,
“so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and
Achaia who believe. 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.” 1 Thessalonians 1:7-8

Rather than fearing for Thessalonica, Paul pointed toward
them as a pattern for other churches

2:7-8 (NIV)

GOD TAUGHT PAUL SOME POWERFUL LESSONS THROUGH THE THESSALONIAN EXAMPLE

Be Clear

Be Patient

Be Encouraging

Be Humble

*“Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord
may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you.”*

2 Thessalonians 3:1

2:7-8 (NIV)

GOD TAUGHT PAUL SOME POWERFUL LESSONS THROUGH THE THESSALONIAN EXAMPLE

This is God's process for His church –

You depend on me

I will depend on you

Together, we will serve the Lord