



DISTINCTIVES





# 1 Thessalonians 1:2–10

<sup>2</sup> We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, <sup>3</sup> remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup> because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.





# 1 Thessalonians 1:2–10

<sup>6</sup> 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, <sup>7</sup> so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup> 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.



# 1 Thessalonians 1:2–10

<sup>9</sup> 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, <sup>10</sup> and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.





# Misconceptions about Saving Faith





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**Definitions that are too weak**





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## Definitions that are too weak

- Agreeing with biblical truths



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- One-time “conversion” rituals





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## Definitions that are too weak

- Agreeing with biblical truths
- One-time “conversion” rituals
- Believing things about yourself



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# Misconceptions about Saving Faith

**Definitions that are too strong**



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## Definitions that are too strong

- Faith with no questions or struggles





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## **Definitions that are too strong**

- Faith with no questions or struggles
- Faith proven by heroic actions



# Misconceptions about Saving Faith

## Definitions that are too strong

- Faith with no questions or struggles
- Faith proven by heroic actions
- Faith expressed by overwhelming emotions





# 1. Saving faith is a gift from God (1:2–3)

<sup>2</sup> We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, <sup>3</sup> remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.



# 1. Saving faith is a gift from God (1:2–3)

## Ephesians 2:8

For by grace you have been saved through faith.  
And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God...





## 2. Saving faith receives the true gospel (1:4–5)

<sup>4</sup> For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you,  
<sup>5</sup> because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.



### 3. Saving faith produces life change (1:6–8)

<sup>6</sup> 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, <sup>7</sup> so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup> 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.





## 4. Saving faith is repentant faith (1:9–10)

<sup>9</sup> 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, <sup>10</sup> and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.



## 4. Saving faith is repentant faith (1:9–10)

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- ***Repentant faith turns to the living God (1:9)***





## 4. Saving faith is repentant faith (1:9–10)

<sup>9</sup> 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, <sup>10</sup> and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

- ***Repentant faith turns from dead idols (1:9)***



## 4. Saving faith is repentant faith (1:9–10)

<sup>9</sup> 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, <sup>10</sup> and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

- ***Repentant faith loves to serve God (1:9)***





## 4. Saving faith is repentant faith (1:9–10)

<sup>9</sup> 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, <sup>10</sup> and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

- ***Repentant faith is eager for Christ (1:10)***



# Final Encouragements







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- **Repentance is a path to joy.**
- **Repentance is a lifelong practice.**
- **Repentance is a community project.**
- **Repentance is a sign of genuine faith.**
- **Repentance is crucial in evangelism.**