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## D. GROWING COMPETENCE

### *D.5: Following up with New Believers* *[1Thessalonians 1:1-5]*

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#### **A STORY**

When I was aboard ship, I had prayed that God would give me a man (a new believer that I could help grow and mature). God provided a man who was going to commit suicide due to the guilt he was experiencing in his life. We prayed together, read the Bible together and he began his journey as a new believer. I saw my responsibility was to help him grow to maturity. Where in the Bible can we find examples of this? I loved the joy of pouring my life into his and to see him grow in love with Jesus.

The book of I Thessalonians is a follow up letter to the new believers in Thessalonica after Paul had visited there. Let's observe some of what he wrote and see what we can do to take steps in our own competence in these areas.

#### **DIGGING INTO THE BIBLE**

##### **I Thessalonians 1:1-7:**

*Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you.*

#### **Thanksgiving for the Thessalonians' Faith**

*<sup>2</sup> We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. <sup>3</sup> We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup> because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup> You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. <sup>7</sup> And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.*

**DISCUSSION AND DISCOVERY**

1. Who was following up the new believers?
2. What were the key things that they remembered about the new believers?
3. What comes to your mind when you think of a Work of Faith?
4. What comes to you mind when you think of a labor of love?
5. What impresses you about the place of endurance inspired by hope?
6. How did the gospel message come to these new believers?

**APPLICATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

7. How do you insure your follow up words are coming with power?
8. How do you insure that your follow up words are coming with deep conviction?
9. How does your modeling affect the whole process?
10. What would be your desire in growing in this area of following up new believers?
11. What would be your first step?

LIST ANY OTHER VERSES THAT YOU HAVE FOUND WOULD ADDRESS THIS ISSUE: