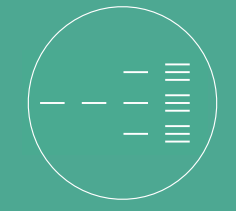


# The Word of God: at work in you



Many churches are NOT healthy, and churches, in general, struggle to equip people for ministry.

**If we make the training of the saints our holy cause,**  
the effect is a healthy church. (Designed to Lead)

A healthy church is not a perfect church, but she is a church that is being collectively formed more & more into the image of Christ.

**Equipping is (starts with) the work of leadership...**

**Equipping is for every single church...**

Equipping must be viewed as foundational, as fundamental to what it means to actually be called a church.

The Word  
of God  
at work  
in you

1 Thes. 2:13-16



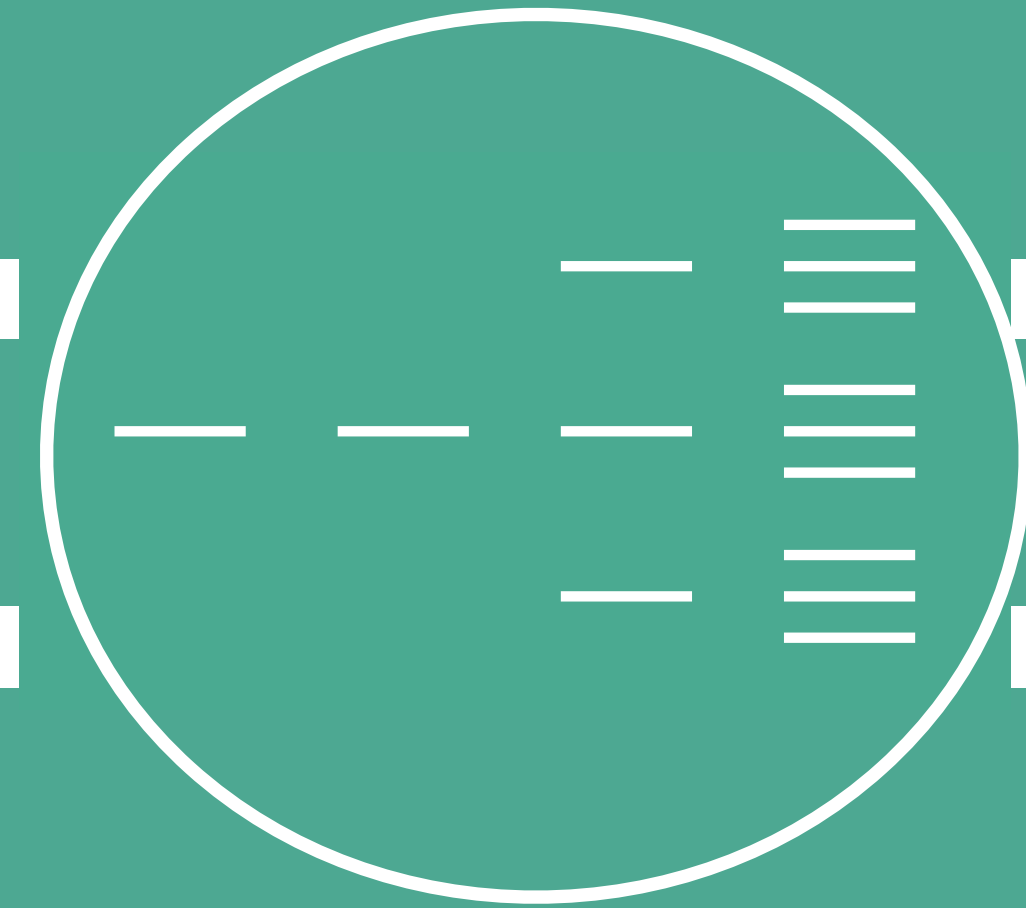
Church: Brethren Beloved By God

Equipping: Example Imitator

Dear to Us: Entrusted Caring

Charged: To Walk Worthy

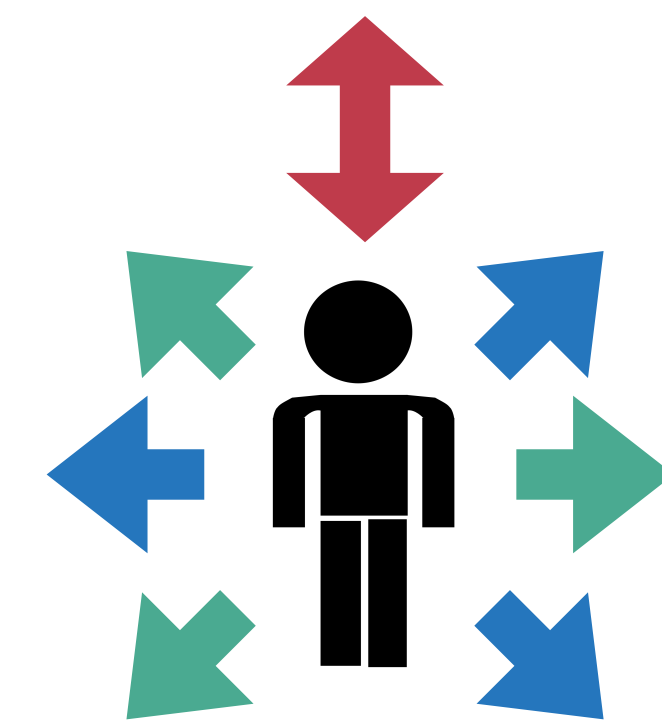
The Word of God: at work in you



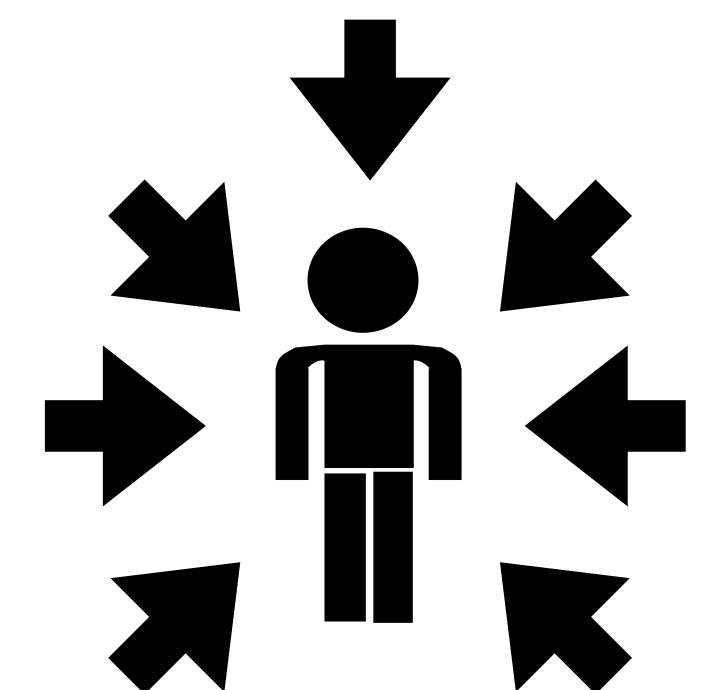
The Word of God at work in you v. 13

Imitating and Suffering v. 14

Speaking to the Nations v. 16

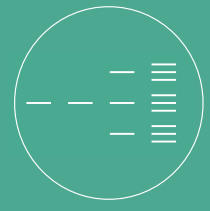


Inside Out Life



Outside In Life

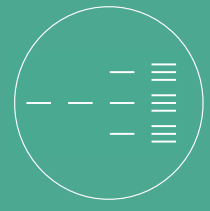
# Dear to Us: Entrusted Caring



1 Thessalonians 2:1 For you yourselves know, **brethren**, that **our coming to you was not in vain**, 2 but after we had already suffered and been mistreated in Philippi, as you know, **we had the boldness in our God to speak to you the gospel of God** amid much opposition. 3 For our **exhortation** does not come from error or impurity or by way of deceit; 4 but just as we have been **approved by God** to be **entrusted with the gospel**, so we speak, not as **pleasing** men, but **God** who examines our hearts.

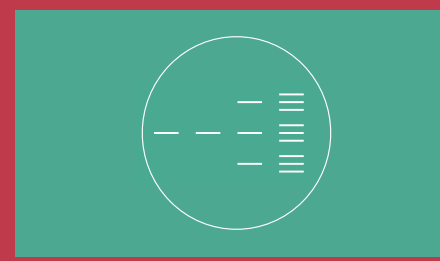


# Dear to Us: Entrusted Caring



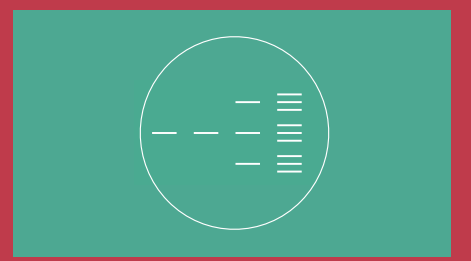
1 Thessalonians 2:5 For we never came with flattering speech, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness— **6 nor did we seek glory from men**, either from you or from others, even though **as apostles of Christ** we might have asserted our **authority**. 7 But we proved to be **gentle** among you, as a nursing mother **tenderly cares** for her own **children**. 8 Having so **fond an affection** for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you **not only the gospel of God but also our own lives**, because you had become very **dear to us**.

# Charged: To Walk Worthy



1 Thessalonians 2:9 For you recall, **brethren**, our labor and hardship, how working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. **10** You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you **believers**; **11** just as you know how we were **exhorting** and **encouraging** and **imploring** each one of you as a father would his own **children**, **12** so that you would **walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you** into His own kingdom and glory.

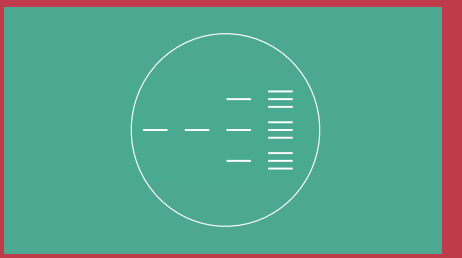
# The Word of God: at work in you



1 Thessalonians 2:13 For this reason we also constantly thank God that when **you received the word of God** which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, **the word of God, which also performs its work in you** who believe.

**14** For **you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God** in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for **you also endured the same sufferings** at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they did from the Jews, **15** who both **killed** the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out. They are not pleasing to God, but **hostile** to all men, **16** hindering us from **speaking to the Gentiles** so that they may be saved; with the result that they always fill up the measure of their sins. But **wrath** has come upon them to the utmost.

# The Word of God: at work in you



1 Thessalonians 2:13 For this reason we also constantly thank God that when **you received the word of God** which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, **the word of God, which also performs its work in you** who believe.

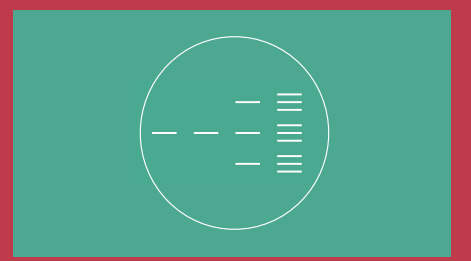
When we receive (believe/trust) The Word of God, it is much more than the word(s) of men...IT IS THE powerful WORD OF GOD.

God and His Word have the greatest capacity to change our lives. Transformation comes from God's Word doing a work in us.

Real Church Growth is powered by the gospel (Word), not relevance.



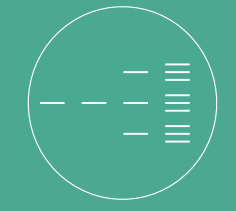
# The Word of God: at work in you



Acts 20:32 And now **I commend you to God and to the word of His grace**, which is **able to build you up** and to give you the inheritance among all those who are **sanctified**.

1 Peter 1:22 Since **you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls** for **a sincere love of the brethren**, **fervently love one another** from the heart, 23 for you have been born again not of **seed** which is perishable but **imperishable**, that is, through **the living and enduring word of God**.

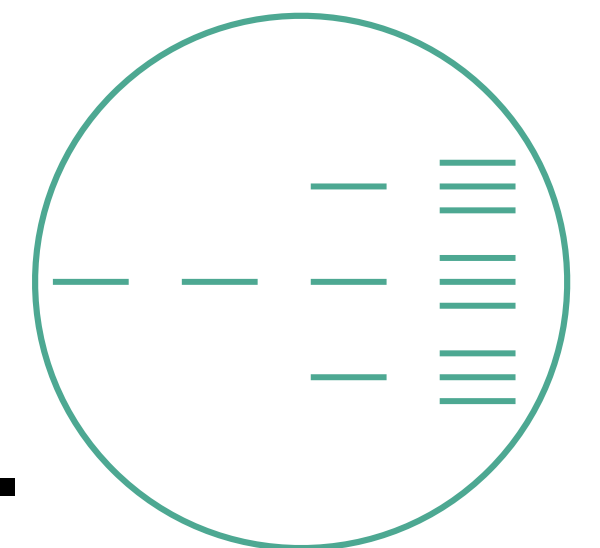
# The Word of God: at work in you



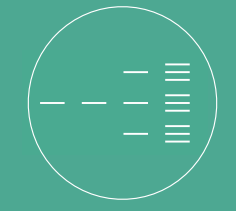
1 Thessalonians 1:6 **You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word** in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, **7** so that **you became an example to all the believers** in Macedonia and in Achaia.

1 Thessalonians 2:14 For **you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God** in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for **you also endured the same sufferings** at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they did from the Jews, **15** who both **killed** the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out. They are not pleasing to God, but **hostile** to all men,

The focus of affirmation was on their **faith**, **love** & **hope** in **suffering**.



# The Word of God: at work in you



1 Thessalonians 2:16 hindering us from **speaking to the Gentiles** so that they may be saved; with the result that they always fill up the measure of their sins. But **wrath** has come upon them to the utmost.

John Stott said, “We should not ask, ‘What is wrong with the world?’ for that diagnosis has already been given. Rather, we should ask, ‘What has happened to salt and light?’”

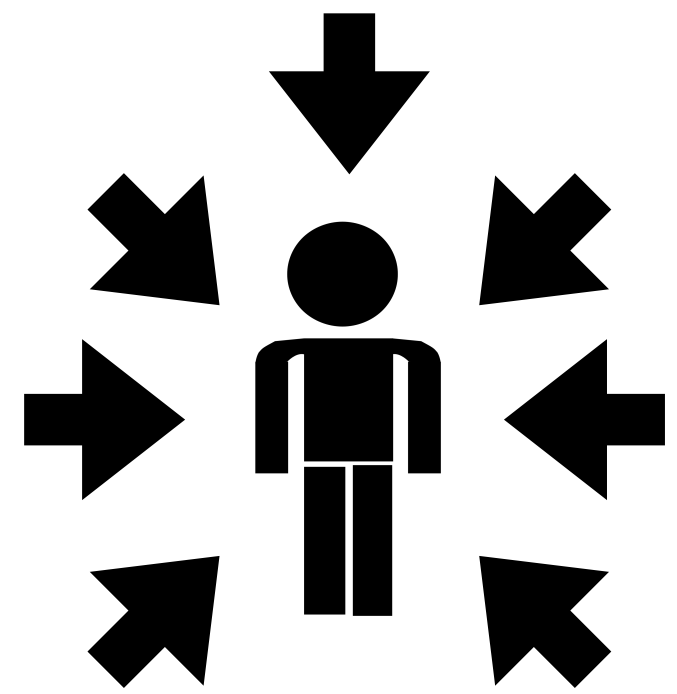
A.W. Tozer said “It is not what a man does that determines whether his work is sacred or secular, it is why he does it.”

**“God’s Church must make it a critical priority to train leaders to create and shape cultures where people flourish and the gospel is advanced.”** (Designed to Lead)

# Dear to Us: Entrusted Caring

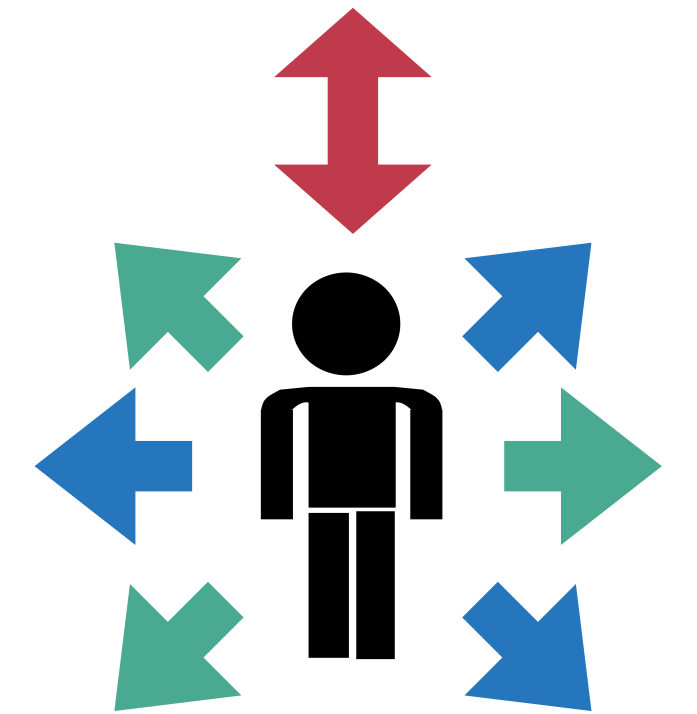


## The Word of God: at work in you



Outside In Life

Imagine a better future as you are **BECOMING** one who **Equips Kingdom Citizens**



Inside Out Life

**DEMONSTRATED LIFE CHANGE/DESIRED PROGRESS**

**Less Mature**

**More Mature in Christ**