

1 Thess 1:1-2:13 Advancing the Gospel with Power: Paul's principles of ministry

Our Gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. 1 Thessalonians 1:5

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds

2 Corinthians 10:3,4

What spiritual "weapons" did Paul use to battle for the lives and eternal destinies of men and women?

The power of prayer

1 Thessalonians 1:2, 1Thessalonians 3:10-13

- God gives spiritual life, so prayer must be the first principle of evangelism and discipling
- Model of Paul's prayers: Eph 1:15-23; 3:14-21, Phil 1:9-11, Col 1:9-12, 2 Thess 1:11-12
- Jesus Example: Luke 5:16, John 17

The power of example

1 Thessalonians 1:5-6, 1 Thessalonians 2:10

- The most widely read translation of the Bible is "the translation into daily living"
- Those we disciple need to be able to see God's grace in operation in our lives
- Jesus example: "The word became flesh and dwelt among us ..." John 1:14

The power of God's Word (the Gospel)

1 Thessalonians 2:13,

- Jesus Example and Teaching: Mark 4
- Share the Gospel:
- Teach the Word of God:

The power of love

1 Thessalonians 2:8

- Friendships built on genuine love Philippians 1:6-8
- Deep, personal involvement in the lives of those you disciple. 1Thessalonians 2:7,11-12
- Jesus Example: Matthew 9:36, John 15:15