

## **BECOME IMITATORS OF THE LORD**

(1 Thess.1-10) could be examined by the following three sections.

- 1 Thess.1:1-5                    “we section”                    From the Pauline missionary team.
- 1 Thess.1:6-8                    “You section”                    To the Church of Thessalonians
- 1 Thess.1:9-10                    “They section”                    About Believers in Macedonia-Achaia

In our [last study](#) we were introduced to the Greek word, ginomai, (1 Thess.1:5). We learned that ginomai is normally translated in English “become” and refers to “changed conditions.”

In **1 Thess.1:5**, Paul used ginomai to define the resulting changed condition that the gospel of grace salvation brings to the soul of the person who believes the gospel (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9; 1 Thess.1:5)  
**Both “in word, power, Holy Spirit, and full conviction”**

In this lesson our text gives us two more uses of the verb ginomai (became). Both are directed towards changed conditions in the Christian way of life.

- 1 Thess.1:6 - “**You** also became (a.m.ind.2pl) \_\_\_\_\_”
- 1 Thess.1:7 - “So that **you** became (aorist infin) \_\_\_\_\_”

**This lesson will study four characteristics of believers.  
BECOMING IMITATORS OF LORD.**

**1. Paul declared in (1 Thess.1:6) that the newly formed bodies of those recently saved became imitators of the Lord in Thessalonica.**

The Greek word for **imitator** is mimetes (nplm/ predicate nominative). It is used to emphatically define the subject along with verb of **becoming imitators of the Lord** (1 Thess.1:6; 2:14)

**(1 Thess.1:6) “You also, (vs.5):**

- **after believing the gospel of grace salvation YOU became** (ginomai (aorist m.ind.2pl)
- **imitators of us and of the Lord, having received** (dechomai/ a.m.ptc nplm) **the word.**
  - **Milk** (Basic Categorical Bible Doctrines)
- **in much tribulation** (Acts 17:1-11, 13; 2 Cor.7:5)
  - Missionary evangelism
- **with the joy of the Holy Spirit** (Gal.5:16, 22-23/ Rom.5:5).”
  - The joy that comes from the Indwelling Holy Spirit.

Every time the term imitator is used as a noun (mimetes), it is used with verb (ginomai) (1 Cor.4:16; 11:1; Eph.5:1; Phil.3:17) [always in the p.m.impv.2pl].

**2. Thessalonian believers Became Imitators of the Lord by taking responsibility for securing their faith in God’s amazing grace salvation.**

(1 Pet.2:2) “**Like newborn babies (brephos), long for (epipodeo/ a.m.ind.2pl) the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation.” (soteria) [soteriology]**

Remember (ginomai) refers to a changed condition in the soul of a newly saved person which creates a “longing for the pure (mother’s) **milk of the word of God.**” It’s a natural desire to inhale and exhale the breath of spiritual life (2 Tim.3:6-17; Eph.2:5; Rom.8:9-11).

**Mild doctrines provide assurance, as new-born baby believer, of your grace salvation.**

**Here is an example of Seven Milk Doctrines for baby believer:**

- Essence of God and how it functions in members of Godhead.
- How the Gospel saves, the mechanics of Grace Salvation
- Evangelism, being the ministry of God, the Holy Spirit
- The four sections of the 50 Things every church age believer receives,
  - That can never be lost in time or eternity.
- Positional Sanctification
- Eternal life
- The six stages of Grace

### **3. They became Imitators of the Lord as a result of the progression of their spiritual growth.**

**There are two spiritual diets for three groups of believers:** (Heb.5:11-14; Eph.5:1-2)

- **Milk** doctrines are for baby believers and reversion believers.
- **Meat** doctrines for spiritually advancing maturing believers.

**Heb.5:11** refers to spiritually “backsliding” believers who have become (ginomai) dull of hearing.

- **Backslider** was used in (Prov.14:14) (sug) [the carnal believer]. **Jeremiah** used a different Hebrew word (meshubah) [reversion or spiritual apostasy] (Jer. 2:19; 3:6-8, 11-14; 5:6; 8:5-6; 14:7).

**Heb.5:12** explains why reversionistic believers are in need of a refresher course in milk doctrines.

**Heb.5:13** explains who naturally needs the milk doctrines of salvation in their spiritual life.

### **4. The Thessalonians became Imitators of the Lord (and Paul) by reaching and maintaining spiritual maturity in the Christian Way of Life by devouring MEAT doctrines (Phil.3:17-18) (summimetes).**

(Heb.5:14) “But solid food (**meat**) is **for the mature** (teleios) <https://teleiology.com/> who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.”

**Meat doctrines for the Christian Way of Life** (15 starters):

- Carnality verses Spirituality
- Confession of sin for experiential sanctification
- Walking by means of the Indwelling Holy Spirit
- The Faith Cycle
- Spiritual warfare and the Full Armor of God
- The different categories of suffering
- Classifications of the Will of God
- Maintaining an effective prayer life
- Spiritual gifted ministry in the body of Christ, the Church
- Missionary foreign and home ministries
- The Judgment Seat of Christ, rewards, and crowns
- Dying Grace
- Dispensations
- Eschatology (the Rapture/ order of the resurrection)

(Heb.13:7) “Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you, and considering the result of their conduct, **imitate** (mimeomai/ p.m.infin) **their faith.**”