

MODEL OF MINISTRY

In our [last study](#) we discussed how Paul connected three important progressive actions in developing a model ministry:

- becoming **saved** by grace gospel
- becoming **imitators** of Lord
- becoming a **model ministry** to other believers.

You may recall that Paul connected these three doctrinal points with the Greek verb **ginomai**.

(1 Thess.1:5-7) [became] Produced by a **changed spiritual condition**.

It began with the spiritual change condition from a sinner unbeliever to a saved believer by the grace gospel.

(1 Thess.1:5) “for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men, we proved to be among you for your sakes”.

Our previous lesson studied the spiritually changed condition of the newborn baby needing milk doctrines for assurance of grace salvation in order to become an imitator of the Lord. (1 Pet.2:2; Heb.5:11-14; **1 Thess.16**).

We will study four aspects of the MODEL OF MINISTRY as outline by Paul in (1 Thess.1:8-10).

1. What did these believers desire after becoming imitators of the Lord by cycling milk doctrines for assurance of their security of grace salvation?

They became seekers of meat doctrines to grow spiritually in their daily the experience of relationship with the “living and true God in the Christian way of life.

(1 Thess.1:9b) “How you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God.”

- **Spiritual growth maturity:** “But solid food (meat) is for **the mature** (teleios), who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.” (Heb.5:14)
- “**Until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.**” (Eph.4:13)

2. Now Paul brags on their spiritual growth advancement to reaching maturity and becoming a model to other believers.

(1 Thess.1:7) “So that you became an **example** (tupos) [example, type, or model] to all the believers (pas tois pisteuo) (p.a.ptc.dplm) [dative of advantage] in Macedonia and in Achaia.”

Model Ministry: “For **the word of the Lord has sounded forth** (execheo/ **perf.p.ind.3ps**) from (ek+abl. of separation) you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place **your faith towards God has gone forth** (exerchmai/ **perf.a.ind.3ps**), **so that we have no need to say anything.**” (1 Thess.1:8)

- Take note of the two perfect tenses: “**sounded forth**” and “**gone forth.**” The perfect tense means completed action in the past with completed results in the present.

These Thessalonian believers engaged in MODEL MINISTRY. They went **from** salvation by believing the grace gospel to being imitators of the Lord, by desiring **milk doctrines**, to becoming a model of spiritual growth maturity to other believers. (Heb.5:11-14).

3. Does your ministry to others have a model?

- If it does, you are on the right path; keep working on your model.
- If it doesn't, reexamine the Scriptural purpose of your ministry (spell it out to get a clear model) - “The word of the Lord sounding forth” and “your faith towards God going forth.” (1 Thess.1:8)
- **It is important** to not neglect your spiritual growth through **daily study** and **inhale and exhale of MEAT doctrines and prayer** and **your relationship with your** “living and true Father God”. (1 Thess.1:8-9).

This type of failure will greatly affect your Model and Ministry.

4. Finally, it is also important to pay attention to how others who are receiving you and your ministry (the report).

This requires you to be objective to constructive criticism regarding how it is affecting others; and is it reaching God's intended spiritual purposes regarding your Model Ministry?

(1 Thess.1:9) “For they themselves report about you us **what kind of reception** we had with you, **and how You turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God.**”

(1 Thess.1:10) “**And to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescue us from wrath to come.**”