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## Act On It

*By Terry Kountz on March 18, 2021*

**TODAY'S READING:** 1 Thessalonians 1

Information is easy to find. We can fill our minds with anything in seconds - from amazing recipes to effective exercise tips. But information alone will not cook our meals or get us through a marathon. Information is only valuable if it leads to action.

The same principle applies to our relationship with Jesus. It takes more than knowledge in our heads to have a relationship with Christ. Transformation begins when we act on what we believe.

Paul tells us that the church of Thessalonica received the Gospel "not simply with words but also with power" (1 Thessalonians 1:5). They not only accepted Jesus' message, they were empowered by it. Empowered to:

- Fulfill their calling; love others; and endure in hope (1 Thessalonians 1:3).
- Have joy in spite of suffering (1 Thessalonians 1:6).
- Share their faith (1 Thessalonians 1:8).
- Turn away from sin and serve God (1 Thessalonians 1:9).

As followers of Jesus, we have access to that same power. We can find freedom from the sin that entangles us, experience healing from our past, forgive those who hurt us, and live with purpose.

A life of Christ's empowerment does not happen by accident. After we ask Jesus into our lives, we have to choose to move forward in our walk with Him. Following Jesus is a journey that happens one next step at a time.

Jesus has more planned for our lives than we could ever imagine. But He will not force us to cooperate. Will we treat our faith like those unused recipes and exercise tips that populate our Pinterest boards? Or will we take our next steps with Jesus and experience His power at work in our lives? The choice is ours.

**PRAYER:** God, help me to act on what I know You want me to do.

**TOMORROW'S READING: 1 Thessalonians 2**

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