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"Rely on God"  
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The Thessalonians' example provides a guide for healthy Christian living and a **healthy church**.

The "secret" to the Thessalonians' success was their **reliance on God**.

I Thessalonians 2:13,14

*"And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you. For you, brothers, became imitators of God's churches in Judea, which are in Christ Jesus..."*

Their reliance on God was shown by their response to the **word** of God, the **work** of God and the **people** of God.

I. They **embraced** the word of God.

I Thessalonians 2:8

*"We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us."*

II. They **allowed** God to work in them.

Philippians 1:6

*"I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."*

III. They **imitated** the faith of God's people.

I Thessalonians 1:6

*"You became imitators of us and of the Lord..."*

God is the ultimate **trail guide** who we can fully rely on to **lead** us.