

Praying With Paul – Week 2

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

Intro

Last week:

- **Urgent Need to Pray**
- **What Shaped Paul's Prayers**

Book Suggestion: *Pray Big: Learn to Pray Like an Apostle*, Alistair Begg

2 Thessalonians 1:11–12: “To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, ¹² so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

I. **Godly Requests (1:11)**

a. “that our God may _____”

“[Paul] prays that Christians might become worthy of all that it means to be a Christian, of all that it means to be a child of the living God” (Carson, *Praying with Paul*, 53-54).

b. “and may _____”

“One sigh and groan from a broken heart, is better pleasing to God, than all human eloquence” (Thomas Brooks, *The Secret Key to Heaven*, 128).

“The truth is that unless God works in us and through us, unless God empowers these good purposes of ours, they will not engender any enduring spiritual fruit; they will not display any life-transforming, people-changing power. ‘Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain (Ps. 127:1)...And unless the Lord fulfills our good, faith-prompted purposes, they will remain arid, fruitless—either empty dreams or frenetic activity with no life...’ (Carson, *Praying With Paul*, 57).

II. **Goal of our Petitions (1:12a)**

a. “...that Christ would be _____.”

“Not to us, not to us, but to your name alone be all the glory” (Psalm 115:1).

“I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other” (Isaiah 42:8).

b. “...and _____.”

“Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is” (1 John 3:2).

“The final transformation, as wonderful as it is, is prefaced by a whole series of transformations, as we become increasingly conformed to the likeness of Christ, in anticipation of the climactic glorification at the end” (*Praying With Paul*, 59).

“And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, **are being transformed** into the same image from one degree of glory to another” (2 Cor. 3:18).

III. Ground of our Petitions (1:12b)

a. “...according to the _____ of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

“Paul does not want to end his prayer by leaving the Thessalonian Christians with the impression that what he is really praying for is that they will simply try harder. At one level, of course, that is exactly what he wants. But Paul always recognizes that if we try harder, it is because the grace of God is powerfully at work within us. We Christians must constantly be reminded of the fact that, just as we were saved by grace, so also are we sanctified and glorified by grace” (Carson, *Praying With Paul*, 60).

“What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?” (1 Cor. 4:7).