

“Why Pray?”

2 Thessalonians
November 10, 2013

III We must pay much closer attention to living with self discipline under God’s word, (2 Ths. 1: 1-3: 18)

A. The wrath of God is a very present reality for those who do not believe the gospel, (vs. 1: 1 – 12)

8. The Gospel Prepares The Real Faith Within The Life Of Every Believer, (vs. 11)

Message Emphasis: Many do not accept that God’s redemptive purpose is to conform His children into the image of Christ. Many mistakenly believe that faith is a “golden ticket” to comfort and prosperity. We must see that the ultimate goal of the gospel is to fulfill what God has called good and not what we think good is.

11.1) What Is Prayer For? How Is It Different From “Meditation?”

Our Text Says, **“To This End We Always Pray For You” – 1)** “...that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you [to be strengthened] with power through his Spirit in your inner being, **2)** so that Christ may [dwell] in your hearts through faith – that you, being **ROOTED** and **GROUNDED** in love, may have strength [to comprehend] with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, **3)** and [to know] the love of Christ that **SURPASSES** knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” (Ephesians 3:16–19, ESV)

1. Ultimately, what should be asked for is what is really needed; the power of Christ - *“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.”* (Ephesians 6:10, ESV)
2. Any strength that may be granted comes from the affects of Christ’s Spirit transforming you - *“For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: “I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.”* (Isaiah 57:15, ESV)
3. The end result of prayer is the love of Christ that leads to the fullness of God - *“For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.”* (Colossians 2:9–10, ESV)

Christian, seek not yet repose, Hear thy gracious Savior say; Thou art in the midst of foes: Watch and pray.

11.2) Where Should Prayer Lead Me? What Is The Intended Result?

Our Text Says, **“That God Make You Worthy Of His Calling”** - *“For you know how, like a father with his children, we **1)** exhorted each one of you and **2)** encouraged you and **3)** charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.”* (1 Thessalonians 2:11–12, ESV)

1. Being worthy requires instruction that goes somewhere *...“head knowledge” does no good ...“heart knowledge”*
2. Being worthy requires encouragement that impassions *...are you willing to stand & fight for convictions?*
3. Being worthy requires motivation that pushes out the door- *“So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead... Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.”* (James 2:17–18, ESV)

Gird thy heavenly armor on, Wear it ever night and day; Ambushed lies the evil one: Watch and pray.

11.3) How Do I Know If My Prayers Are Effective? Can I See Results?

Our Text Says, **“Fulfill Every Resolve For Good” – 1)** *“Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of the evil. Avoid it; do not go on it; turn away from it and pass on. **2)** For they cannot sleep unless they have done wrong; they are robbed of sleep unless they have made someone stumble. For they eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence. **3)** But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day. The way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know over what they stumble.”* (Proverbs 4:14–19, ESV)

1. We must avoid and flee from evil with impunity - *“I do not sit with men of falsehood, nor do I consort with hypocrites. I hate the assembly of evildoers, and I will not sit with the wicked.”* (Psalm 26:4–5, ESV)
2. We must realize that evil is all consuming - *“They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children!”* (2 Peter 2:14, ESV)
3. We must understand that righteousness grows in ever brighter clarity - *“Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.””* (John 8:12, ESV)

Hear the victors who o’ercome, Still they mark each warrior’s way; All with one sweet voice exclaim, Watch and pray.

11.4) Who Am I Ultimately Trusting In To Answer Prayer?

Our Text Says, **“Every Work Of Faith By His Power”** - *“Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.” Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.””* (John 6:27–29, ESV)

Hear, above all, hear thy Lord, Him thou lovest to obey; Hide within thy heart His word: Watch and pray

*****What Must I Do To Be Saved? ***** **Message Directive:** Look to Christ for the salvation of your soul; ONLY in Christ can you truly accomplish anything that is genuinely good. **“Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.”** (Isaiah 45:22, ESV)

“What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory...” (Romans 9:22–24, ESV)

9. The Gospel Prepares The Real Grace Within The Life Of Every Believer, (vs. 12)

B. The wrath of God is a very present reality governed by the ordained decrees of God, (vs. 2: 1 - 17)

C. The wrath of God is a very present reality that must be avoided even in its temporal aspects, (vs. 3: 1 - 18)