

# Home Group Helps

## 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

### *Living in the Light of His Return: A Prayer Primer*

Finally, brethren, pray for us that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified, just as *it did* also with you; <sup>2</sup> and that we will be rescued from perverse and evil men; for not all have faith. <sup>3</sup> But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil *one*. <sup>4</sup> We have confidence in the Lord concerning you, that you are doing and will *continue to* do what we command. <sup>5</sup> May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the steadfastness of Christ.

**I. The Call for Prayer (v.1a)** – Finally, brethren, pray for us

**II. The Content of Prayer (v.1b-2)** – that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified, just as *it did* also with you; <sup>2</sup> and that we will be rescued from perverse and evil men; for not all have faith.

1. **success** – that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified, just as *it did* also with you
2. **deliverance** – <sup>2</sup> and that we will be rescued from perverse and evil men; for not all have faith.

**III. The Confidence in Prayer (v.3-4)** – <sup>3</sup> But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil *one*. <sup>4</sup> We have confidence in the Lord concerning you, that you are doing and will *continue to* do what we command.

**IV. The Character of Prayer (v.5)** – <sup>5</sup> May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the steadfastness of Christ.

#### 1. Launching Question(s):

- E. M. Bounds said, “Prayer is real work. Praying is vital work. Prayer has in its keeping the very heart of worship.”
- Why does prayer sometimes seem so easy and yet so difficult?

#### 2. Observation Question(s):

- What are the two major areas of content in Paul’s prayer request to the Thessalonians mentioned in vs. 1 and 2?
- Paul asks, “that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified.” The idea of “spread rapidly” can mean “speed ahead” as in a runner outpacing his opponents. What are some of the “opponents” (un-Christian worldviews) that “compete” against the Gospel today?

#### 3. Interpretation Question(s):

- In Romans 15, we saw Paul requesting prayer for safety during his forthcoming trip to Jerusalem. This request was not answered, and Paul was arrested. After two years, he was sent off to Rome as a prisoner. Yet, in Phil. 1:12-14 he states that his imprisonment has “turned out for the greater progress of the Gospel.”
- Does this episode provide insight into why God might not answer prayer?

#### 4. Reflection Question(s):

- John Newton's hymn, "I Asked the Lord", reflects the power of God's "no" in prayer:
  - 6. *"Lord why is this," I, trembling, cried;  
"Wilt Thou pursue thy worm to death?"  
"Tis in this way," the Lord replied,  
"I answer prayer for grace and faith."*
  - 7. *"These inward trials I employ  
From self and pride to set thee free,  
And break thy schemes of earthly joy  
That thou may'st seek thy all in me."*
- Reflect on these words and discuss why sometimes the best answer to your prayer may be "no."

#### 5. Application Question(s):

- How might you schedule more meaningful prayer in your life this coming week?

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