

“ADDING AFFIRMATION TO YOUR PRAYER LIFE”

II Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12

I. INTRODUCTION:

- A. Dealing with God's perspective of “today”: v. 4 (*II Tim. 3:12*)
1. “Persecutions” – afflictions for proclaiming the Gospel:
 2. “Tribulations” – affliction with life in general:
- B. Dealing with God's perspective of the urgent “tomorrow”: vv. 5-10
1. “Day of Christ”: (*I Thes. 4:13-18; II Thes. 1:5-10*)
 2. “Day of the Lord”: (*I Thes. 5:1-8; II Thes. 2:1-12*)
(*the 70th week of years – tribulation – Dan. 9*)

II. BECOMING AFFIRMING PEOPLE GENERATED BY YOUR PRAYER LIFE:

- A. The foundation of affirmation: v. 1-2 (*I Thes. 5:14*)
- * *Affirmation: “It is the right word said at the right time, spoken in a loving way.”*
- ** *Affirmation: “It makes it easier for us to believe in God, believe in others, and believe in ourselves as people with dignity. The lack of affirmation invites our suspicious nature to believe that our darkest thoughts about God, others, and ourselves is true.”*
1. One common foundation – “in God”: v. 1
 2. Two vital pillars – “grace and peace”: v. 2
- B. The structure of affirmation: vv. 3-4
1. We are thankful: v. 3
 2. We boast to other churches: v. 4
- C. The prayer of affirmation: vv. 11-12 (*Col. 4:12*)
1. The framing of your day: (*Ps. 63:1; Mk. 1:35*)
- * *The absence of prayer at the beginning and throughout each day, will ALWAYS expose a proud “big” person with a very “little” God.*
2. The unusual petitions: v. 11
- a. “That our God would (always) count you worthy of this calling” (*Phil. 1:29*)
 - b. (Always) “fulfill (resolve) all the good pleasure of his goodness – generous, open handed and great hearted” (*Acts 11:24*)
 - c. (Always) fulfill “the work of faith with power (dynamite)”: (*I Thes. 1:3, 5-8*)
3. The purposeful praises: v. 12 (*I Pet. 2:12*)
- a. “Name” – your reputation, authority: (*Jn. 1:12; 14:13-14; 15:16; 16:23-24*)
 - b. “Lord” (Possession – who it is I belong to) – *Jn. 20:28; I Cor. 6:19-20*; Jesus (provision – who it is who provided salvation) – *Mt. 1:21; Acts 4:12*; Christ (position – why it is I obey Him) – *Mt. 16:16; Jn. 6:69; Jn. 5:1*
 - c. “Glorified” (the goal of prayer is not to make others or ourselves happy, but to glorify Christ in making Him happy)
 - d. “Grace of our Lord” – God’s unmerited favor is the only basis to accomplish this shift in objectives:

- Changing the objective of prayer, transforms the answers to prayer. (*Ja. 4:3; Rom. 8:27*)

III. PRINCIPLES TO PERSONALLY APPLY:
(Together becoming “people of the Word” in principle AND in practice)

A. The command to affirm fellow believers is inseparably linked with the **urgent** command for every believer to be **faithfully** connected in the worship services of a local church. (*I Thes. 5:14; Heb. 10:24-25*) (*internals vs. externals*)

B. If I am the one who needs to be affirmed, I must first determine if my affliction is the result of my disobedience or obedience. (*Gen. 50:20; Gal. 6:7*)

* **David is a warning of the “sad consequences of forgiven sins”. (*Ps. 51; II Sam. 12:7-15*)**
Dr. William Culbertson

C. The ultimate affirmation to all who are hurting can only be found in the Lord Jesus Christ. Surrender to Him since He lives for you. (*Rom. 8:1, 31, 35-39*)