

# “God’s Testimony”

## 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

We have been talking about our testimony in the timeline. Our testimony is about how we live today in the light of end times events to come.

Where is the Lord in all of this? What role does God play in our testimony?

God’s testimony is the most important part of our testimony. Without Him none of this is possible!

### 1. GOD ANSWERS PRAYER (2 THESSALONIANS 3:1)

#### A. Paul asked for prayer because prayer is powerful and necessary

- i. “True prayer is neither a mere mental exercise nor a vocal performance. It is far deeper than that - it is spiritual transaction with the Creator of Heaven and Earth.” - Charles Spurgeon
- ii. *Ephesians 6:18–19<sup>18</sup> praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—<sup>19</sup> and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel*
- iii. “Talking to men for God is a great thing, but talking to God for men is greater still. He will never talk well and with real success to men for God who has not learned well how to talk to God for men.” — E.M. Bounds, Power Through Prayer
- iv. *John 14:13–14<sup>13</sup> And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.*

### 2. GOD HONOURS HIS WORD (2 THESSALONIANS 3:1)

#### A. We pray that it spreads rapidly

- i. *Mark 16:15<sup>15</sup> And then he told them, “Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.*
- ii. *Acts 6:7<sup>7</sup> Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.*
- iii. *Acts 13:49<sup>49</sup> And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region.*
- iv. *Acts 19:20<sup>20</sup> So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.*
- v. *1 Thessalonians 1:5<sup>5</sup> For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.*

- vi. "Preach abroad. It is the cooping yourselves up in rooms that has dampened the work of God, which never was and never will be carried out to any purpose without going into the highways and hedges and compelling men and women to come in." - Jonathan Edwards

## **B. We pray that it works effectively**

- i. *1 Thessalonians 2:13<sup>13</sup> For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.*

## **3. GOD PROMISES PROTECTION (2 THESSALONIANS 3:2-3)**

**A. From unreasonable and wicked men – Those who respond negatively to the gospel. (Verse 2)**

**B. From the evil one – Satan is against our work for God. (Verse 3)**

- i. *John 17:15<sup>15</sup> I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.*
- ii. *Jude 24<sup>24</sup> Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy*

## **4. GOD EMPOWERS HIS PEOPLE (2 THESSALONIANS 3:4)**

**A. Confident in the Lord. His commands are only possible through His strength.**

- i. *Philippians 2:12–13<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.*
- ii. *Hebrews 13:20–21<sup>20</sup> Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, <sup>21</sup> make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.*

## **5. GOD IS LEADING US TO LOVE (2 THESSALONIANS 3:5)**

**A. This is our destination and goal. Love.**

- i. *1 John 4:7–11<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup> God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. <sup>10</sup> This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us*

*and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other.*