

“Empowering Prayer”

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

While learning about the return of the Lord, and our responsibility to have a good testimony in the timeline, we have a section of prayer from the apostle. Without the power of God through empowering prayer we are hopeless.

We pray that God would make us worthy, make us workers, make us worshippers, and make us aware.

1. **EMPOWERED TO BE WORTHY – IT’S ABOUT GOD’S CALLING (VERSE 11)**

A. We are not worthy apart from Jesus. That means we don’t deserve Jesus, or earn Jesus, or can be good enough for Jesus.

- i. *Matthew 8:8,10* The centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed... 10 When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, “Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!
- ii. *John 1:27*²⁷ *It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose.”*

B. But God makes us worthy because of Jesus.

- i. Our worth does not come from what we do but from who we are in Him
- ii. *Colossians 1:12*¹² *giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.*
- iii. “Our worthiness is seeing and savoring the One of infinite worth... Our worthiness is our preferring God’s worth above all things.” [John Piper](#)
- iv. *2 Thessalonians 1:5(NLT)*⁵ *And God will use this persecution to show his justice and to make you worthy of his Kingdom, for which you are suffering.*

C. Therefore we must accept His worth and not ours.

- i. *Matthew 22:8*⁸ *Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy.*
- ii. *Matthew 22:11–14*¹¹ *“But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. ¹² So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the*

servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'¹⁴ "For many are called, but few are chosen."

- i. Revelation 3:4⁴ You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.

2. EMPOWERED TO BE WORKERS – IT'S ABOUT GOD'S GOODNESS (VERSE 11)

A. A life of a working faith – Genuine faith produces good works.

- i. Galatians 5:6⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.
- ii. 1 Thessalonians 1:3³ remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love...

B. The motivation and the application to do good for God

- i. Philippians 2:13¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.
- ii. James 4:2–3² ... Yet you do not have because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.

3. EMPOWERED TO BE WORSHIPPERS – IT'S ABOUT GOD'S GLORY (VERSE 12)

A. God's glory is our priority. God answers prayers that promote His glory in the world.

- i. 1 Corinthians 10:31³¹ Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
- ii. Psalms 50:15¹⁵ Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."

B. As the Holy spirit is at work in our Church we will worship and glorify God

- i. John 16:14¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.
- ii. Psalms 50:23²³ Whoever offers praise glorifies Me...

4. EMPOWERED TO BE AWARE – IT'S ABOUT GOD'S GRACE (VERSE 12)

- i. 1 Corinthians 15:10–11¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. ¹¹ Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Growth Group Discussion Questions

- The world talks a lot about our self-worth. What do you think is the difference between the way the world sees our worth and the way God sees our worth? In other words, what truly gives us worth as people?
- Do you every feel like you are not worthy to be a Christian? What are some of the ways we can encourage one another when we feel especially unworthy?
- The Bible says that faith without works is dead. Why is it important to have good works as a part of your Christian experience?
- God's glory is the goal of all Christians. How do you know the difference between doing things for God's glory and doing them for your own glory?
- Many Christians are trying to serve God using their own best effort and abilities rather than relying on God's grace. What are some warning signs that a Christian is not experiencing or relying on God's grace?