

## **Reflecting on 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5**

### **December 6, 2020**

**Introduction:** In this text, Paul requests prayer for himself and his missionary team, and shares his prayer for the Thessalonians going forward. With each request, Paul reveals a core value. You see, *Our prayers reveal our core values*. Below is a list of core values from this text:

1. A passion for the advance of the Gospel. (1)
2. A desire to overcome opposition for the sake of the mission. (2)
3. A deep concern for spiritual well-being and deliverance from spiritual enemies. (3)
4. A resolute focus on obedience to God's truth. (4)
5. A heart determined to love like God and be steadfast like Christ. (5)

The challenge of the message is to examine our own core values and see how they compare to those represented in Scripture. One important way to assess our core values is look at how we pray.

#### **Up for Discussion:**

1. Which of these core values presents the biggest challenge for you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Which one of these core values shows up the most in your own prayer life? Which one shows up the least? Why do think this is true?

3. Think through an average day in your life. Consider the people you rub shoulders with. What would change about your average day if you were passionate about the advance of the Gospel?
  
4. Why should believers be deeply concerned for their own spiritual well-being and the spiritual well-being of others? (See Eph. 6:12 and 1 Pet. 5:8) How should this important core value show up in our prayers?
  
5. This side of heaven, all believers are a mixed bag of obedience and disobedience. What makes us resolute in our obedience to God's truth in some matters but less determined to obey God in other areas? What are some areas of obedience where you may need accountability?
  
6. Can you think of a person who loves like God and/or is steadfast like Christ? Think of a story you can share with your group that evidences one of these two core values. How can you model these core values in your life as well?