

"A Life that Brings Glory to Christ"

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

Theme: The Lord's glory is the great accomplishment of grace in the faithfulness of believers.

I. IT IS A LIFE OF WORTHINESS - v. 11a

A. Worthiness is a Result of Grace - *"To this end we pray for you always ..."*

1. The previous section detailed the kind of Church that is worthy of the Kingdom - able to stand before the Lord when He comes without fear but glorying in His Coming.
2. Paul here says: *"To this end also we pray for you always ..."*
3. *"we pray"* [προσευχόμεθα] refers to "coming before" God - that is, interceding on the behalf of the Thessalonian believers.
4. The reason that prayer is essential to this end is that possessing a life that is *"worthy of your calling"* is not a human achievement but a direct result of God's grace in our lives.
5. The prayers are not "one-and-done" but are repeated and perpetual - *"always."*
6. It is interesting that not only do spiritual leaders perennially pray for God's people, but the people of God themselves must be praying, asking God to provide for them the resources of grace needed to "walk worthy."
7. He concludes these two verses with the reference again to the grace we need to be successful in walking worthy - cp. v. 12b - *"... according to the grace of our God and Lord Jesus Christ."*

B. Worthiness is Reckoned by God - *"... that our God will count you worthy of your calling"*

1. It is not enough for us to be satisfied with our spiritual condition - a state of being that is most dangerous for anyone to experience - cp. ***Philippians 3:12; 1 Corinthians 4:1-5.***
2. It is God's assessment of us that matters.
3. The phrase *"count ... worthy"* [ἀξιόω] can also be translated "made worthy" - referring to being considered suitable or deserving of something.
4. Specifically, it is our *"calling"* of which we desire to be "counted worthy" - that *"calling"* to Christlikeness through grace in salvation.

5. It is by means of the imputed righteousness of Christ Jesus that we are considered *“worthy”* of the Kingdom of God - cp. [Ephesians 4:1-3](#); [Colossians 1:10](#).

II. IT IS A LIFE OF WORK - v. 11b

A. The Regard for Our Work - *“fulfill every desire for goodness”*

1. This second aspect of a life that brings glory to Christ is that we have a *“desire for goodness”* - that is, we are desiring to exert ourselves for the purpose of fulfilling the will of God.
2. The aspiration of every believer is to apply themselves to be able to *“fulfill”* [πληρώση] - accomplish or complete what is “good.”
3. *“goodness”* [ἀγαθωσύνη] - refers to the moral quality of prioritizing the welfare of others.
4. We see our efforts, not as primarily benefitting ourselves - we are not to be “ego-centric”, but we work on behalf of others - cp. [Ephesians 4:28](#); [Titus 3:14](#).
5. The person who relies on others to provide for them is “unworthy” - cp. [2 Thessalonians 3:10-13](#).

B. The Resource for Our Work - *“... and the work of faith with power”*

1. We aren't speaking merely of physical work - although this is certainly within the view of what Paul has in mind; it addresses the issue of the spiritual exertions that exercises our faith.
2. The *“work of faith”* that God had begun in them is something that Paul says he prays will continue *“with power”* from God - cp. [Philippians 1:6](#); [2:12-13](#).
3. The “work of faith” produces righteous deeds that are offered up to the Lord as a means by which God is glorified - cp. [Matthew 5:16](#); [1 Peter 2:12](#).
4. The reality of the desire within us to allow our faith to be externalized drives us to display our faith through our works - cp. [James 2:17-18](#).

III. IT IS A LIFE OF WITNESS - v. 12

A. The Exaltation of Christ - *“so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you”*

1. Ultimately, our motivating principle is the privilege of being able to bring glory to *“the name of our Lord Jesus.”*

2. Everything that the believer does is to be for the glory of God - cp. **1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:17**.
 3. The aspiration of the believer is that attention will be called to Christ and the hope that we possess in Christ - being ready to give an answer concerning this hope - cp. **1 Peter 3:15**.
- B. **The Edification of the Christian** - *“... and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.”*
1. When we live for the glory of Christ, He promises that He will bring us glory and honor at the end - *“and you in Him”* - cp. **1 Peter 1:7; John 12:26**.
 2. God’s honoring of those who serve Him will display how He *“counts you worthy of your calling”* when He appears - cp. **Romans 2:7-10**.

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