



Thoughtful Prayers from Thessalonians- Part I 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

Pray for God to bless our discipleship.

^{11a} To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of His calling...

Text Message:

- Notice these prayers here were **always** prayed for the church!
- The word “you” in these verses is plural, which means not individual believers, but the Thessalonian church is in mind.
- This means we have all been called and are part of a calling!
*God doesn't only call preachers, He calls creatures;
God doesn't only call missionaries, He calls ordinaries!*
- *What does it mean for God to make us worthy of His calling?*
- Here's how one modern translation gets at the heart of this:
This is why we always pray for you, asking our God to help you live the kind of life He called you to live... New Century Version
- Remember this is not for us as individuals, but as a church.
- In other words, we should pray that we would reflect the love and heart of Christ to one another and to our community!
- **Pray this verse this week for the church:**
A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Pray for God to bless our desires.

^{11b} ... and may fulfill every resolve for good...

Text Message:

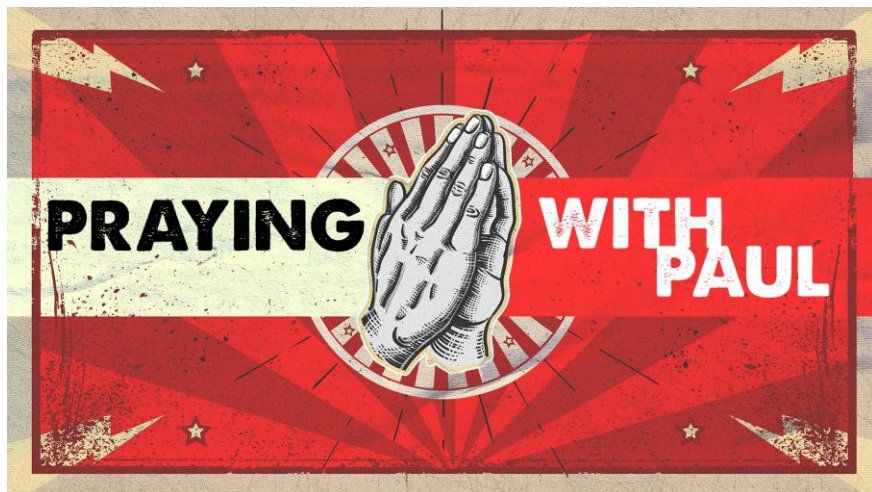
- The word “fulfill” is the Greek πληρωω (*play-rah-oh*) and pictures something being filled to the brim.
- Here are some other translations that simplify this request:
... that He'll fill your good ideas... with His own energy. THE MESSAGE
He will make every good thing you want to do come true. NIRV
... give you the power to accomplish every good intention. VOICE
... fulfill with power every good desire. TLV
- Therefore, this request is for God's blessing (power) for all that is good: any good ideas, good intentions, good desires, good decisions we have as a church.
- Paul spoke similarly of the church at Rome:
... you yourselves are full of goodness. Romans 15:14
- **Pray this verse this week for the church:**
They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness. Psalm 145:7

Pray for God to bless our deeds.

^{11c} ... and every work of faith by his power,

Text Message:

- This is the second request for God to “fill to the brim” with His power.
- For God to bless our desires, as in the previous prayer, is in the realm of ideas and plans. For God to bless “every work of faith” is a request for God to bless the implementation of ideas and the accomplishment of our plans.
- So, we pray for God-inspired and empowered ideas and the carrying out of these!
- **Pray this verse this week for the church:**
You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. John 15:16



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