

# Paul's Pastoral Request and Blessing

## 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5 (NASB95):

- 1 Finally, brethren, pray for us that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified, just as *it did* also with you;
- 2 and that we will be rescued from perverse and evil men; for not all have faith.
- 3 But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil *one*.
- 4 We have confidence in the Lord concerning you, that you are doing and will *continue to* do what we command.
- 5 May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the steadfastness of Christ.
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Summary of the passage, from *The New Treasury of Scripture Knowledge*:

“The apostle requests the prayers of the Thessalonians, especially for the success of his ministry; expresses his confidence respecting them; and prays for them, 1-5.”

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### I. *Paul's Desire: for the Word of the Lord*

- How does it instruct us that the **Apostle Paul** is requesting prayer from the Thessalonians (themselves being far less experienced in grace than he. . .)?



- What does this say about how Paul viewed the success/failure of his ministry?
  - In what way(s) is the progress of the “word of the Lord” (i.e. *the gospel*) dependent upon prayer?
  - Why is it important for us to know that “not all have faith”?
  - What examples do we see today of wicked people seeking to **hinder** the spread of the gospel?
  - How can we be praying for gospel ministry in the world today?
- What areas of your life/ministry are you tempted to elevate **ability** over **prayer**? Are you tempted to depend upon your own skills/talents/efforts rather than on the Lord through prayer?

## II. *Paul’s Trust: the Faithfulness of the Lord*

- What are some specific things that Scripture teaches God is faithful to do?
- How has God proven Himself faithful in **your** life?
- Knowing that God is faithful, how should that **change/impact** us?

## III. *Paul’s Confidence: in the Lord*



- Even though God is the faithful One, what do we learn about the Thessalonians' behavior from verse 4?
- If God is sovereign, how important is our obedience?
- Paul encourages the Thessalonians by speaking highly of their dedication to obey God's Word. How can we encourage one another in a similar way? Is it important to encourage one another?

#### ***IV. Paul's Blessing: Growth from the Lord***

- How does a knowledge of God's love lead to steadfastness? *What does it mean to be steadfast?*
- Have you noticed that you are growing in steadfastness since you became a Christian?
- In what ways does the Lord "direct our hearts" into the steadfastness of Christ?

#### ***Prayer Topics:***

- Pray that God will direct us and grow us into a mature faith and into the steadfastness of Christ.
- Pray for protection and fruitfulness for those involved in teaching/preaching the Word of God at ABC and across the world.



