

Praying in the Midst of Trials

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

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I. INTRODUCTION

- A. In times of crisis it's important to know who to run to to find help.
- B. That someone, for the Christian to run to, is God and the means by which we run to Him is prayer.
- C. Prayer not just for ourselves, but prayer for our fellow believers who are facing trials for the Kingdom of God.

WE CAN STAY STRONG AND LIVE READY IN THE MIDST OF TRIALS WHEN WE PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER.

II. HOW SHOULD WE PRAY?

(Elsewhere we are taught to pray for strength, protection, wisdom, help, deliverance and provision, but here Paul includes two things to pray for in the midst of trials.)

- A. Pray that God will count you worthy of His calling.
(2 Thessalonians 1:11a)
 - 1. The Christian life is a journey. It begins with the call to salvation and continues with the call to follow Jesus and glorify Him.
 - a. Paul prayed we would be counted worthy of this calling.
 - b. He had already said the trials were evidence that we would be counted worthy (vs.5), so why pray for it here?
 - c. Because even though something is promised or confirmed we are to constantly pray until all that is promised is finally accomplished.
 - 2. We are to live a life worthy of our calling.
(Ephesians 4:1)
 - a. Live a life worthy — “bring up the beam of the scale.”

- b. Live your life in balance with this calling you profess.
This call is:
 - 1) Irrevocable *(Romans 11:29)*
 - 2) His calling *(Ephesians 1:18)*
 - 3) High and heavenly *(Philippians 3:14)*
 - 4) Holy *(2 Timothy 1:9)*
 - 5) Personal to us and all Christians *(2 Peter 1:10)*
 - 6) A call of hope *(Ephesians 4:4)*

- B. Pray that God would fulfill his every purpose in us by his power.
(2 Thessalonians 1:11b)

- 1. Paul knew that to live this life it could not be done in our own strength. We need God's power operational in us.
 - a. Power — dunamis — “dynamite”.
 - b. We need God's mighty power to be released in us and through us.
(Ephesians 3:14-19)
- 2. This is so God can, by His power:
 - a. Fulfill every good purpose of yours.
 - b. Fulfill every act prompted by your faith.
- 3. Paul prayed for more of God's power to be released in their service just as it always had been.
(1 Thessalonians 1:2-6)
- 4. Why do we need to pray this?
 - A. That Jesus' name would be glorified in us.
 - B. That we would be glorified in Him.
(2 Thessalonians 1:12; John 17:20-26; Romans 8:16-18)

III. CONCLUSION

- A. The goal of this kind of praying is not that we be safe, but that we be strong and ready.

B. 2 Thessalonians 1:12