

Apostolic Prayers – 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

“(NASB), “11 To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power, 12 so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

I. Book of 2 Thessalonians Context

- a. The Book of 2 Thessalonians 3:10-13 is a letter written by Paul to the saints in Thessalonica in either 51 or 52 A.D.
- b. Thessalonica was an active seaport city at the head of the Thermaic Gulf. It was an important communication and trade center and the largest city in Macedonia and the capital of its province.
- c. Paul’s ministry in Thessalonica began in a Jewish synagogue, which shows that there were Jewish believers there, but there was a large amount of God-fearing Greeks. Paul’s purpose in writing this letter was to:
 - i. Encourage the new converts in their trials
 - ii. To give instruction concerning Godly living
 - iii. To correct a misunderstanding concerning the Lord’s return

II. Basic Outline of the Apostolic Prayer

- a. To this end also we pray for you always that:
 - i. Our God will count you worthy of your calling
 - ii. And fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power
- b. So that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you and you in Him.

III. Chapter 1 Verse 11

(NASB), “To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power,”

(NIV), “With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith.”

(AMP), “With this in view, we constantly pray for you, that our God will count you worthy of your calling [to faith] and with [His] power fulfill every desire for goodness, and complete [your] every work of faith,”

(TPT), “With this in mind, we constantly pray that our God will empower you to live worthy of all that he has invited you to experience. And we pray that by his power all the pleasures of goodness and all works inspired by faith would fill you completely.”

a. Key Words

- i. **Count You Worthy** – *Axioo* – to deem entitled or fit. think good, count (think) worthy, to judge worthy
- ii. **Of Your Calling** – *Klesis* – An invitation, a call. The divine invitation to embrace salvation in the kingdom of God.
- iii. **Goodness** – *Agathosyne* – uprightness of heart and life virtue, beneficence
- iv. **Of Faith** – *Pistis* – persuasion, moral conviction, assurance
- v. **Power** – *dynamis* - power; strength, ability, force, miraculous power (Translated 7 X in the bible as Miracle)

Count you worthy of your calling

- b. Verses 4 and 5 give us insight into what the implication of “the calling” of the Thessalonian church was:
- i. To stand faithful in the midst of persecution
 - ii. To be considered worthy of the kingdom of God by God’s righteous judgment.

(2 Thessalonians 1:4-5 NASB), “4 As a result, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure. 5 This is a plain indication of God’s righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you indeed are suffering.”

- c. Generally speaking “you calling” is simply being a follower of Christ.
- i. To be counted worthy of your calling is to be considered to be fit (by the enabling grace of the Holy Spirit) to work out your salvation with fear and trembling despite the pressures, temptations, and persecution you might face.

(Philippians 2:12 TPT), “12 My beloved ones, just like you’ve always listened to everything I’ve taught you in the past, I’m asking you now to keep following my instructions as though I were right there with you. Now you must continue to make this new life fully manifested as you live[a] in the holy awe of God—which brings you trembling into his presence.”

- d. Ephesians 4 gives some practical examples of what walking in a manner worthy of the calling looks like. Simply put walking in a manner worthy of the calling of God is to live your life as He sees it through the lens of the finished work. God calls us, qualifies us, and enables us to walk worthy of His calling until He grants relief at His glorious appearing.

(Ephesians 4:1-6 NASB), “Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 being diligent to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and

one Spirit, just as you also were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.”

And fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of Faith with power

- e. We acknowledge first that God has gracious purposes toward his people. His heart is compassion and his intentions for His people are always good He is the good shepherd. By the great commission we have become the primary vehicle God has chose to fulfill every desire for goodness in His heart (It’s included in “our calling”).

(John 10:11-18 NASB), “11 “I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. 12 He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf snatches them and scatters the flock. 13 He flees because he is a hired hand and does not care about the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd, and I know My own, and My own know Me, 15 just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. 16 And I have other sheep that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will listen to My voice; and they will become one flock, with one shepherd. 17 For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it back. 18 No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it back. This commandment I received from My Father.”

(Matthew 9:36 NASB), “36 Seeing the crowds, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and downcast, like sheep without a shepherd.”

- f. What Paul knits to goodness here is the work of faith with power. Goodness if fulfilled on the earth when the Church operates in faith to extend the miraculous resurrection power of God. Walking worthy of His calling includes operating in faith to extend the miraculous resurrection power of the Kingdom.

IV. Chapter 1 Verse 12

(NASB), “12 so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, in accordance with the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

(NIV), “12 We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

(AMP), “12 so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you [by what you do], and you in Him, according to the [precious] grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

(TPT), “12 By doing this the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you will be glorified in him, by the marvelous grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

- a. Key Words

- i. **Name** – *Onoma* – name, the way someone is distinguished from everyone else
- ii. **Will Be Glorified** – *Endoxazomai* – To make, to glorify, adorn with glory

So that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, in accordance with the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- b. Verse 11 is unto verse 12. The Holy living out of our calling displays Christ to those around us. The highest calling of the church is to know Him in all of His glory and be filled to overflow so that we may fulfill the primary function of the church, which is to display His glory on the earth.
- c. This verse is really a summary of 2 Thessalonians 1:8-10. The pinnacle or climax for the church in this age is displayed in 2 Thessalonians 1:8-10. He comes to grant us relief in flaming fire as a result of the church being a mature bride who stands in wholehearted agreement with the Spirit longing for Jesus to return at that final trumpet.

(2 Thessalonians 1:8-10 NASB), “8 in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God, and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 These people will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, 10 when He comes to be glorified among His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed—because our testimony to you was believed.