

Apostolic Prayers – 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

(NASB), “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.”

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. Finally Brethren, Pray for us that:
 - i. The word of the Lord will spread rapidly And be glorified
 1. Just as it did also with you
 - ii. And That we will be rescued from perverse and evil men;
 1. For not all have faith
- b. But The Lord is faithful and He will
 - i. Strengthen
 - ii. protect you from the evil one
- c. We have confidence in the Lord concerning you that you are doing, and will continue to do what We command
- d. Now may the Lord direct your hearts
 - i. into the Love of God
 - ii. and into the steadfastness of Christ

III. Chapter 3 Verse 1

(NASB), “Finally, brethren, pray for us that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified, just as it did also with you;”

(NIV), “As for other matters, brothers and sisters, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you.”

(AMP), “Finally, brothers and sisters, pray continually for us that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be honored [triumphantly celebrated and glorified], just as it was with you;

(TPT), “Finally, dear brothers and sisters, pray for us that the Lord’s message will continue to spread rapidly and its glory be recognized everywhere, just as it was with you.

a. Key Words

- i. **Word** - *Logos* – Something said (including the thought); a word, speech, talk.
 - ii. **Will Spread Rapidly** – *Trecho* – to run or walk hastily, To progress freely, to advance rapidly
 - iii. **Glorified** – *Doxazo* – To render glorious: to (make) glorify(-ious), full of glory. To make renowned, render illustrious, to cause the dignity and worth of some person or thing to become manifest and acknowledged.
- b. Finally Brothers pray for us - That is, for Paul, Silas, and Timothy that were engaged in spreading the Gospel in Corinth.
- c. That The Word of The Lord will spread rapidly – Paul prays that the message of our Gospel would speed forth without any hesitation or opposition from the demonic and bad intentioned men. His cry is for the message spoken from Christ go on quickly without any interruption that it may not be stopped.
- d. And Be Gloried – The message of the Lord is glorified when people hear it and respond rightly to it. Pau prays for the Word to have honor and high esteem in the world. In Paul’s time the Jews counted the Gospel has heresy and the Gentiles counted it foolishness. The fruit of the word of the Lord bearing fruit is repentance and commitment.
- e. Just as it did with you – Acts 18 shows the opposition that Paul was facing while He was in Corinth writing this letter to Thessalonica. Paul tells the church in Thessalonica “Remember how the Word spread quickly and was glorified among you? Pray that it happens here too. If it can happen there why not here.”

IV. Chapter 3 Verses 2 and 3

(NASB), “and that we will be rescued from troublesome and evil people; for not all have the faith. 3 But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.”

(NIV), “And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil people, for not everyone has faith. 3 But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.”

(AMP), “and [pray] that we will be rescued from perverse and evil men; for not everyone has the faith. 3 But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen you [setting you on a firm foundation] and will protect and guard you from the evil one.

(TPT), “And pray that God will rescue us from wicked and evil people, for not everyone believes the message. 3 But the Lord Yahweh is always faithful to place you on a firm foundation and guard you from the Evil One.”

a. Key Words

- i. **Will be Rescued** - *Rhyomai* – To drag out of danger, To rush or draw. To draft, to oneself, to rescue, to deliver
 - ii. **Faithful** – *Pistos* – objectively trustworthy; subjectively, trustful: true.
 - iii. **Strengthen** – *Sterizo* – To strengthen, make firm, to render constant, confirm, ones mind, establish. To set in a certain position.
 - iv. **Guard** – *Phylasso* – to be on watch, keep watch, to have in keeping, to have in custody. To guard a person or thing that he may remain safe.
- b. And that we may be delivered from perverse and evil men – He writes, also pray for us to be rescued from men with bad aims and purposes (even though they might be well-meaning, but misguided). Let us be able to “run along from” those that are in opposition to the good intentions of the spoken Word of God.
- c. But The Lord is faithful – God stands pledged to all who believe in Him, Paul is reminding them here that while humans can’t always be trusted, God is always faithful to His promises and His purposes. It’s a powerful declaration because despite the opposition Paul was facing in Corinth He is confident God was going to do what He said He would and Paul reminds Thessalonica to not be discouraged but to pray for The word to gain influence.
- d. And He will strengthen (establish) you and keep you from evil – Paul quickly switches from His need to their need here. He says I believe God is faithful and I know He will be faithful to preserve and keep you firm that you may be established in your faith and not moved away from it by unreasonable men. And, I know He’s faithful to keep you from the evil one’s strategies and influences.

V. Chapter 3 Verses 4 and 5

(NASB), “4 We have confidence in the Lord concerning you, that you are doing, and will do, what we command. 5 May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the perseverance of Christ.”

(NIV), “4 We have confidence in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do the things we command. 5 May the Lord direct your hearts into God’s love and Christ’s perseverance.”

(AMP), “4 We have confidence in the Lord concerning you, that you are doing and will continue to do the things [which] we command. 5 May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the steadfastness and patience of Christ.”

(TPT), “4 We have complete confidence in the Lord concerning you and we are sure that you are doing and will continue to do what we have told you. 5 Now may the Lord move your hearts into a greater understanding of God’s pure love for you and into Christ’s steadfast endurance.”

a. Key Words

- i. **We Have Confidence** – *Peitho* – to persuade, seek to persuade, endeavor to convince. “We are persuaded”
 - ii. **Direct** – *Kateythyno* – to straighten fully, guide. To make straight; to make direct
 - iii. **Heart** – *Kardia* – The thoughts or feelings (mind); also the middle; the organ that pumps blood to every part of the body
 - iv. **Love** – *Agape* – charity, affection or benevolence; devotedness. Love unconcerned with self and concerned with the greatest good of another.
 - v. **Steadfastness** – *Hypomone* – Patient (hopeful) endurance. A patient steadfast waiting for.
- b. We have confidence in The Lord concerning you – Because God is faithful to establish and protect you we are persuaded by His goodness. Paul actually takes the pressure off of them with this statement, our hope and expectation isn’t in YOU but in GOD’S faithfulness to complete what is lacking in your faith and fulfill His intentions for you.
- c. That You are doing and will continue to do what we command – Paul edifies and challenges them with an expectation. He says, “you’re doing a good job and I know because God is faith and is in your midst you will sustain the work of faith already being fulfilled in you”.
- d. Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of Christ – Would the Lord break-in, intervene, and put your heart on a path of love. Would you be a people of the first and greatest commandment.

- e. And into the steadfastness of Christ – That the same endurance which Characterizes Christ would be evident in your midst. That despite the overwhelming persecution you might face and already are facing, would you hold fast until you meet Him or He appears in fire in the sky.