

## ***Apostolic Prayers – 1 Thessalonians 3:10-13***

***(NASB), “10 as we keep praying most earnestly night and day that we may see your faces, and may complete what is lacking in your faith? 11 Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you; 12 and may the Lord cause you to increase and overflow in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also do for you; 13 so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.”***

### **I. Book of 1 Thessalonians Context**

- a. The book of 1 Thessalonians is a letter written by Paul to the saints in Thessalonica in 51 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 give assurance concerning the future of believers who dies before Christ’s return.

### **II. Basic Outline of the Apostolic Prayer**

- a. As we keep praying most earnestly night and day that we may see your faces, and may complete what is lacking in your faith?
- b. Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you;
- c. And may the Lord cause you to increase and overflow in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also do for you
  - i. So that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

### **III. Chapter 3 Verses 10 and 11**

***(NASB), “10 as we keep praying most earnestly night and day that we may see your faces, and may complete what is lacking in your faith? 11 Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you;”***

***(NIV), “10 Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith. 11 Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you.”***

*(AMP), “10 We continue to pray night and day most earnestly that we may see you face to face, and may complete whatever may be imperfect and lacking in your faith. 11 Now may our God and Father Himself, and Jesus our Lord guide our steps to you [by removing the obstacles that stand in our way].*

*(TPT), “10 Every night and day we sincerely and fervently pray that we may see you face-to-face and furnish you with whatever may be lacking in your faith. 11 Now may our Father God and our precious Lord Jesus guide our steps on a path straight back to you.”*

a. Key Words

- i. **Earnestly** – *Perissos* – The more, beyond measure, extraordinary, greatly, exceedingly
- ii. **May Complete** – *Katartizo* – perfect, make perfect, adjust, repair

- b. We pray most earnestly night and day - Insight into Paul and his companions prayer lives show they prayed constantly, exceedingly and abundantly. Paul even urges Thessalonica to pray without ceasing

*(1 Thessalonians 2:17 NASB), “17 But we, brothers and sisters, having been orphaned from you by absence for a short while—in person, not in spirit—were all the more eager with great desire to see your face.”*

- c. That we may see your faces and complete what is lacking in your faith – Paul emphasizes the importance of believers meeting face to face. He also believed that it was Satan’s hindrance keeping him apart from the saints in Thessalonica. This goes to show that Satan actually does hinder saints from coming together.

*(1 Thessalonians 2:18 NASB), “18 For we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, more than once—and Satan hindered us.”*

- d. We may complete what is lacking in your faith – Paul wanted to be among the saints that he could teach them, pray with them, and answer necessary questions. Much of what was lacking in their faith is what Paul addresses in this letter. It’s important to note that our growth in the knowledge of divine things is ever increasing.
- e. Direct our way to you – The way Paul prays this here is that God would conduct a straight path for him to be able to go to Thessalonica where all obstacles are removed. We always pray before we go that God would make a straight path free of all obstacles.

IV. Chapter 3 Verse 12

*(NASB), “12 and may the Lord cause you to increase and overflow in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also do for you;”*

*(NIV), “12 May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.”*

*(AMP), “12 And may the Lord cause you to increase and excel and overflow in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also do for you;”*

*(TPT), “12 And may the Lord increase your love until it overflows toward one another and for all people, just as our love overflows toward you.*

- a. Key Words
  - i. **Cause** – *Pleonazo* – abound, abundant, make to increase, by extension, cause to increase
  - ii. **Abound** – *Perisseuo* – abundance, remain, to be great, to make excellent, overflow
  - iii. **Love** - *Agape* – charity, affection, good will, love, brotherly love, highest form of love
- b. May The Lord cause you... - Jesus is the one who initiates love to abound among us. He will by His power, wisdom, and supernatural workings cause you to increase in love. Paul shows true love is not a matter of striving but in allowing God to work in our midst.
- c. Increase & abound in love – To multiply and continually increase in love until you are abounding and overflowing in it. A prayer for an increase in the practice of love that we would abound in the fruits of love (In order to be sustained in times of persecution). The example Christ shows us in the way in which He loves is the same love He intends to fill us to overflow with. The foundation for a culture of blamelessness and holiness is a culture of overflowing in love.

V. Chapter 3 Verse 13

*(NASB), “13 so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.*

*(NIV), “13 May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.”*

*(AMP), “13 so that He may strengthen and establish your hearts without blame in holiness in the sight of our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints (God’s people).*

*(TPT), “13 Then your hearts will be strengthened in holiness so that you may be flawless and pure before the face of our God and Father at the appearing of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones. Amen!”*

- a. Key Words
  - i. **May Establish** – *Sterizo* – To make stable, to confirm, place firmly, strengthen, fix, render constant
  - ii. **Without Blame** – *Amemptos* – blameless, irreproachable, faultless, unblamable
  - iii. **Holiness** – *Hagiosyne* – sacredness, moral purity, set apartness, likeness to Christ

- b. So That He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints. - If love were to abound in their midst they would become blameless. No charge or accusation would be found against them. If love were to abound in their midst they would be found pure in heart and in agreement with the majesty and glory of God.
  
- c. The reward of intimacy with God that overflows in a community is blamelessness and holiness. It is overwhelmingly clear that the maturity of the bride is knit to blamelessness and holiness. I believe that one generation's love and holiness should set the standard for the next and unto the return of the Lord.