

Paul brings a conclusion to his second letter to the Thessalonians. As the final chapter begins, he requests prayer for he and those with him. While his requests are specific, he also remembers to lift up those to whom he is writing, demonstrating a sincere heart for prayer and dependence upon the Lord.

2 Thessalonians

3:1-5

Praying

Like

Paul

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

Prayer is an interesting discipline. While it is clearly a priority in our Christian experience, it's also something that many neglect. Whether personal prayer, corporate prayer, or just a proper understanding of prayer, it seems that a lot of Christ followers recognize a need for growth in this specific area.

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

WHAT are your first thoughts when considering the discipline of prayer?

HOW would you describe your own prayer life?

WHY do you think prayer tends to be a struggle for many Christians?

DESCRIBE a time when you experienced the power of prayer?

WHAT prevents us from being more prayerful as a community of believers?

2 Thessalonians

3:1-5

Praying Like Paul

2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

OBSERVATION

What is the transition word in vs. 1 that tells us the author is changing topics?

What does Paul ask the brothers to pray for, specifically in vs. 1-2?

Describe the two realities Paul expresses at the end of vs. 2 and in vs. 3.

What does Paul say is true of the Lord, according to vs. 3.

In vs. 4, what does Paul say he has confidence *about*, and in *whom*?

What do you observe about the prayer Paul offers up in vs. 5?

INTERPRETATION

What does Paul mean when he asks for prayer, that the, “Word of the Lord would speed out ahead”? Consider a similar request in Colossians 4:2.

What does it look like to honor God’s Word (vs. 1)? How did the Thessalonians honor God’s Word when it came to them (see 1 Thessalonians 1:5-6)?

Who are the wicked men Paul is asking prayers of protection from? Consider Acts 17:5, 13-14.

How does this kind of opposition present itself in our lives today? What does Paul say about it, specifically, in Ephesians 6:12-20?

Read Daniel 10:10-21. How does this passage speak to the same ideas that Paul mentions in Ephesians 6, and is this still relevant to our experience today?

What difference do the specific truths mentioned in vs. 2-4 make in our personal walks with the Lord today?

What are the commands from this text that Paul is giving those in Thessalonica *and* to us today?

APPLICATION

Take a few minutes to pray now with your group that...

1. ...the Word of the Lord would speed out ahead and be honored in our families, work, and lives
2. ...He would protect us from the wickedness of the world
3. ...the Lord would direct our hearts to the Love of God and steadfastness of Christ