

CLOSING CHALLENGES

2 Thessalonians 3:1

Request for prayer verses 1-2

The life of JESUS CHRIST is characterized by His always praying to His Father. Read the Lord's Prayer in the whole of John 17. If JESUS CHRIST saw the need to pray how much more for each of us...

1 Thessalonians 5:17

17 **pray without ceasing**

Believe it or not God wants to hear your voice and thoughts directed toward Him.

Think about it, how do you like it when those around you are silent? Do not talk with you? Your parents, your children, your husband, or wife... we do not like it when we are ignored, and neither does our Heavenly Father... so keep on praying... little things.. big things!

1 **Finally, brethren,** (fellow believers in JESUS CHRIST) **pray for us** (this is a pres. middle imperative—There is so much involved in asking others to pray for you.)

(1) (They must be believers in JESUS CHRIST)

Galatians 3:26

26 **For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.**

(2)

That Paul asked for prayer reveals a few things about Paul:

- 1 Paul has an awareness of personal need. Some believers are too arrogant to acknowledge that they are in need of God's intervention in their lives.
- 2 He believes in the effectiveness of other believers prayers. Many believers are to vain to ask others to pray for them, please do not allow arrogance to cut you short of the prayers of others.
- 3 Paul continually ask believers to be in prayer for him, a close study of Rom. 15:30-31; Eph. 6:18-19; Col. 4:2-3 and Phil. 1:19 along with 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2 reveals some of the things Paul was in need of and asked for prayer support by believers from God:
 - 3a boldness in his speech;
 - 3b open doors to present the gospel;
 - 3c ability to make the message clear to those to whom he was speaking
 - 3d Personal safety from the attacks of others. And believers you can add to this list any request you may have in life.
- 4 let us all learn from Paul and believe in the effectiveness of prayer by others and not be afraid or to arrogant to ask others for prayer.

(3) They must know to pray to God the Father
Matthews 6:9

(4) They must know to pray in the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 6:18

18 **With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,**

(This of course assumes the believer knows how to be in the Spirit. That is by grace through FAITH in the Holy Spirit)

(5) Believers should pray for One Another. All believers are on the same team and sustain One Another in prayer. This can be personal and or collective prayer. (private prayers and prayer with other believers)

(6) Another problem in this request is that Paul puts this in the imperative mood which means that this is far from probability. The Imperative mood does not mean probability or even possibility. This Imperative simply lets them know what Paul desires from them. It would amaze us all how few prayers are effective prayers. That is prayers by believers who are FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT—guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit when they pray. Prayers that are according to the Plan of God, the Will of God. Every believer has the **possibility** for effective prayer, because God has

given every believer in the Church Age the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Now it is up to every believer to know –from the WORD OF GOD—how to pray and then to make pray a vital part of their daily lives.

PAUL REQUEST TWO ITEMS OF PRAYER

That (for the purpose that) **the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified, just as it did also with you;** (First of all, what is included in the phrase) **the word of the Lord**

We have looked at this phrase in 1 Thessalonians 4:1.

This phrase refers to all the teaching by JESUS CHRIST and then all the teaching about JESUS CHRIST which, of course, includes the gospel and all the teachings in the Bible.

In order that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly
Present Active Subjunctive of the verb to run and is figuratively used here that the word of the Lord may spread rapidly. And this may or may not happen, this depends in part on the effectiveness of prayers by believers.

This is why it is so important that you pray:

1. For the spreading of the WORD OF GOD through **our internet and be in prayer for Jim Langston, Julie Cooper, Kit Sheehan, Ed Lacy and others who help in keeping this outreach going.**
2. Pray for the spreading of the WORD OF GOD through the teaching of young people at the Wise home and the Dagues home.
3. Pray for the spreading of the WORD OF GOD through the teaching of young people at the Wise's home and the Dague's home.
4. And that you pray for the spreading of the word of our Lord by the teaching right here in **this assembly**. This includes Wesley Tuttle, James Webb, and all who clean monthly, etc.
5. Pray for the effective spread of our outreach in our C-Ds and publications.
6. Pray for me in my studying of the Word of our Lord
7. Pray for One Another in this assembly who support this teaching and spreading of the WORD OF GOD.

2 Thessalonians 3:1

- 1 **Finally, brethren, pray for us that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified,**

What does it mean for the Word of our Lord
To Be **glorified**?

First, the word is glorified when it is honored by believers.

When people recognize that this is Truth and believe the WORD OF GOD and then when believers study and grow in the Word of Christ. So you have a part in the glorification of the WORD OF GOD.

Then, when believers share the WORD OF GOD with others, the word is glorified whether they believe it or not. It is not our responsibility as to their response, this is between them and the Holy Spirit.

*“THE WORD OF GOD NEVER GOES FORTH IN VAIN
NOR RETURNS VOID”* (E.Young)

The going out of the Word of our Lord is the glory of that word.

Then Paul closes this verse with a wonderful acclamation of these believers **just as it did also with you** When unbelievers respond to the gospel or when believers respond to the teaching of the WORD OF GOD, the WORD OF GOD is glorified.

Verse 2 is the second request in prayer:

Paul ask for prayer for the success of the gospel and now for the safety of the messengers.

2 **and that we will be rescued from perverse and evil men; for not all have faith.**

First Paul asked for prayer in regard to the spreading of the WORD OF GOD.

Now he asked for prayer of protection as he continues to teach the WORD OF GOD.

And that we (Paul and his evangelistic team) **be rescued**
Aorist Passive Subjunctive of a verb you are familiar with, but in another context:

This is the same word used of *the Rapture* in 1 Thessalonians 1:10

¹⁰ **and to wait for His Son from heaven** (where He sits right now at the Right Hand of God) **whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus who rescues us from the wrath to come** (that is The Tribulation.)

So here in a non-Rapture context we see the dynamics of this verb. We do not ask for prayer to be taken up, snatched away or delivered in *the Rapture* but here Paul uses this word in reference to the great pressure and dangerous circumstances in his giving out the gospel. And the subjunctive mood tells us, if he is going to be delivered then it will be because of their prayers.

Note how Paul describes those attacking his giving of the gospel: **and that we will be rescued from perverse and evil men; Perverse** is used to describe someone who is **unreasonable**, out of place in their thinking; dangerous in their thinking.

And evil (This word gets right to these people.)

This word explains why they are unreasonable. They are 'evil disposed' or **evil** which corrupts others. But this does not define **evil**. **Evil** is not just hostility against God, **evil** seeks to corrupt or destroy God, JESUS CHRIST, Bible, and all who follow the Bible.

Evil corrupts the gospel; all the way from there is no gospel, for there is no hell, anyone, everyone who teaches this are **Evil** and should not be supported nor tolerated by Christians.

This phrase **perverse and evil men** can best be known from the characteristics of the flesh nature, for they are completely controlled by their flesh nature.

First: they are described as being **continually corrupted**

Ephesians 4:22

22 **that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, (flesh nature) which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, (they are so deceived and they have strong desires for their own deceit—moral issues, political, and of course spiritual.)**

Second:
most deceitful

Jeremiah 17:9

9 **“The heart is more deceitful than all else”**

Here is the hypocrisy of these people, they put forth their **evil** in beautiful, peaceful speech...

much like the Muslims... ‘we are a peaceful people’...

lies... deceitful.

And the problem is
that many of our leaders here in America
believe them.

They refuse to see the truth.

Third:

they are incurably sick Jeremiah 17:9 **And is desperately sick;** (that is they are incurable sick and then note) **Who can understand it?** (who can understand such a thinking?)

Just this week in the Newspaper there was a brutal killing and the article ended with the words, *“I don’t understand why or how they could do this”*. Well, I do. The WORD OF GOD makes it very clear— we are corrupt, we are deceitful and incurably sick.

Fourth:

They are in their very nature **full of evil**

Ecclesiastes 9:3

3 **This is an evil in all that is done under the sun, that there is one fate for all men. Furthermore, the hearts of the sons of men are full of evil**

People don’t make it more difficult; It is simply that our flesh nature is full of **evil**. This is why our flesh nature is so opposed to

FAITH, especially FAITH in God, in JESUS CHRIST!

And **Fifth**, also in this verse **and insanity is in their hearts throughout their lives. Afterwards they go to the dead.**

Insanity!

Think about it. How insane is...

anti-Semitism

hatred of JESUS CHRIST

get rid of JESUS CHRIST in Christmas, in schools etc.

chop of the heads of people just because they are Christians...

Exterminate all Jews

This moral and spiritual insanity
goes along with Evil...

Supreme Court decisions – *insane*.

Well, all these are from the flesh nature of man; then add the schemes of Satan and political correctness or worldliness. So do not be shocked or bewildered by all that is going on in the world today, **and remember the restraining ministry of the Holy Spirit (through the Church) is restraining all this insanity.**

The Tribulation will be characterized by unrestrained insanity!

and that we will be rescued from perverse and evil men for not all have faith (All these people cause suffering to

Paul and his team, trying to stop them from teaching the truth are unbelievers. They do not have FAITH in JESUS CHRIST as Savior.)

PRINCIPLE:

In the time we live, of anti JESUS CHRIST,
anti-Bible,
anti-Salvation by FAITH ALONE IN CHRIST ALONE
—**let us be faithful in prayer for One Another.** —

Let us note the persecutions that Paul has endured for the sake of the gospel, and while reading this, think, how much are you will to suffer for the spreading of the Gospel, the spreading of the WORD OF GOD?

2 Corinthians 11:23-28

23 **Are they servants of Christ?—I speak as if insane—
I more so; in far more labors, in far more
imprisonments, beaten times without number,
often in danger of death.**

24 **Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine
lashes.**

25 **Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was
stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night
and a day I have spent in the deep.**

26 **I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from
rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my
countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers
in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on
the sea, dangers among false brethren;**

27 ***I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.***

28 ***Apart from *such* external things, there is the daily pressure on me *of* concern for all the churches.***

You have troubles?

Remember every other believer also has difficulties in life...
do not compare yours with theirs,
each is suffering as per what God allows.

Verses 3-4 reveal the Lord's Faithfulness.

2 Thessalonians 3:3

3 ***But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.***

**This brings us to one of the most important
essences of God to our daily live:**

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

Faithfulness of God

Introduces the FAITHFULNESS of God
and is the grounds of all Christian hope!

So many Christians are trying so hard, under law, to keep their
Salvation to assure themselves of Resurrection, etc.,

WHEN THESE THINGS DO NOT DEPEND ON US AT ALL, BUT DEPEND COMPLETELY ON THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD.

And this is so in keeping with all we know of God:

- 1 We are saved by grace through faith—that not of ourselves
- 2 Since our Salvation does not depend on us, the assurance of our Salvation does not depend on us; the securing of our Salvation does not depend on us. All depends on the FAITHFULNESS of God.
- 3 Our Salvation Security, resurrection at Revelation of JESUS CHRIST and our spending eternity with JESUS CHRIST –all are dependent on the FAITHFULNESS of God. Think about it—if God is not Faithful we are to be pitied.

I. FAITHFULNESS means being trustworthy, reliable, absolute truth; therefore it refers to the FAITHFULNESS of God. This is another of the issues as to who is qualified to be God. Satan said ‘I am” but he fails to be God for Satan is not faithful, he is the father of lies.

II. FAITHFULNESS in regard to what? Think about this, if we say one is faithful, faithful in what respect? So when we say that

God is Faithful what are we saying?

First

**GOD IS FAITHFUL TO HIS ESSENCE,
GOD IS FAITHFUL TO WHO HE IS.**

How many of us are faithful to who we are in Christ?

None of us, we all fail.

**BUT GOD IS FAITHFUL IN RESPECT TO ALL
THAT GOD IS.** It is impossible for God to be unfaithful to
His **+R (Perfect Righteousness);**

It is impossible for God to be unfaithful to His **Love.**

**GOD DOES NOT CHOOSE
TO BE FAITHFUL TO HIS ESSENCE,
HE **IS** FAITHFUL.**

This is part of the Character of God.

The FAITHFULNESS of God is the effect of the Attributes of God, His perfect character. FAITHFULNESS of God hinges on the Essence of God.

God is **Omniscient, Perfect Righteousness, Omnipotent,** and **Truth.** So, when God promises something, He is **Omnipotent...** meaning no one can stop God from doing what He promises. God is **Omniscient...** meaning that He knows all things... [all things in past, present, and all things future]

so He knows there is nothing that can prevent Him from keeping His Word.

God is **Truth** – when He says anything or promises anything it is Based on absolute **Truth**.

And very important, God is **Veracity, Immutability – Unchanging**.

When God promises something, He is not going to change what He has promised.

Second

**GOD IS FAITHFUL IN WHAT HE PROMISES!
GOD KEEPS HIS WORD.**

When God says you are saved by **FAITH in His Son**, then you can Trust Him that you are saved if you believe in His Son. When God says you have **Eternal Salvation**, that **JESUS CHRIST will be revealed**, that **JESUS CHRIST is coming again...**; you can Trust Him.

So

**God being Faithful
means that God is Faithful
to His Own Essence and to His Word.**

III. There is only one person who is totally Faithful to you and that is God. The fact that you are alive, and have peace about eternity is because of the **FAITHFULNESS of God**—you are Trusting His Faithfulness.

IV. This is one of the first Essence of God proclaimed:

Deuteronomy 7:9

9 **"Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments;"**

V. Every day, all day, most of us walk in peace, in regards to our **Eternal Life Salvation**, but whether we think of it or not, we can do this because we Walk by FAITH in the FAITHFULNESS of God. Gospel of John 10:28-29; 2 Timothy 2:13; 1 Corinthians 1:4-9

People who believe they can lose their Salvation have 3 major problems:

- 1 They do not understand what happened on the cross, all sins forgiven and how God saves once we believe in JESUS CHRIST
- 2 They are so impressed with their sins...how their sins can counter what Christ did on the cross.
- 3 They do not trust the **FAITHFULNESS** of God. They live in fear of loss of Salvation.

Why?

They do not trust in the FAITHFULNESS of God

That God is Faithful to keep that which He promised—
no one can cause us to get out of the Hand of God—

Not God... for He is faithful

Not angels - for God is faithful.

Not man for God is faithful and

Not YOU; we cannot undo the FAITHFULNESS of God

Our confidence in our Salvation is the **FAITHFULNESS** of God
Hebrews 10:23

- VI. In regards to Salvation 2 (recovering from sin and back into the **Power of the Holy Spirit**) we do not have to be afraid because we have sinned. All sins were forgiven at the cross; for the unbeliever; for the believer.

Therefore, all we have to do is to go back to what we stopped doing which is walking **BY FAITH IN THE HOLY SPIRIT**;
God is Faithful to the Person and Work of His Son on the cross
1 John 1:8 and 2:2

- VII. Not only are we trusting in God for Salvation 1 and 2; but we are trusting God for His **FAITHFULNESS** in holding the world – the Universe and all Universes are under His control... the only reason the sun shines each day; the only reason gravity is consistent is due to the **FAITHFULNESS** of God:
Psalm 36:5; Psalm 89:2; Psalm 119:89-91

- VIII. God's **FAITHFULNESS** is vital to our prayer life: Psalm 143:-2
And we should always give thanks for the **FAITHFULNESS** of God: Isaiah 25:1

- IX. God's **FAITHFULNESS** is seen in His Protection:
1 Corinthians 1:8-9; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Thessalonians 3:3;

X. The 5 CHARACTERISTICS OF OUR FLESH NATURE; carnal, old man

- 1> Continually being corrupted
- 2> Deceitful above all else
- 3> Incurably sick
- 4> Full of Evil
- 5> Insane

Now, to combat this nature God has done things:

- 1st, He crucified our old nature
- 2nd Then He raised us up a new creature in Christ
- 3rd, Then He supplied us with the Holy Spirit—power over sin
- 4th Then He has given us promise from His FAITHFULNESS
1 Corinthians 10:13

XI. In regard to suffering

1 Peter 4:19

19 **Therefore, let those also who suffer according to the will of God entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.**

Two broad categories of suffering;

1st Suffering due to Divine Discipline (sin) and

2nd Suffering due to the designed Plan of God.

Philippians 1:29

29 **For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,**

Both categories of suffering are designed by God.
God does not punish a believer for sin...
.....punishment always looks backward;
.....discipline looks forward.

1 Peter 4:19

19 **Therefore, let those also who suffer according to the will of God entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.**

So whether you are suffering due to sin, or designed for glory, you can Trust God, in the **FAITHFULNESS** of God that this suffering is right before God's Essence and His Plan for history and for you!

Psalm 119:75

XII. Look at the **FAITHFULNESS** of God in just living.
So many things happen in day-in and day-out of our lives.
And things happen that cause us to wonder...

Why? What is God doing?

Here is another time we have to just turn to the **FAITHFULNESS** of God and Trust His **FAITHFULNESS**.

Deuteronomy 32:4; Lamentations 3:22-23; Joshua 1:5; Psalm 33:4-5

This is why we will give thanks for His FAITHFULNESS

XIII. XIII. Those who Love the Lord in the power of the Holy Spirit – Love to Witness of JESUS CHRIST; Witness of the Love of JESUS CHRIST. Well here is yet another aspect of the Greatness of God that we should want to tell others is **FAITHFULNESS** of God Psalm 89:1-2

This is especially true of parents...should be diligent to teach their children of the FAITHFULNESS of God Isaiah 38:19

XIV. History and the FAITHFULNESS of God.

The race of the Jews, the Nation of Israel, and the 4 Unconditional Covenants.

We come to what is next in history: *RAPTURE*, Tribulation and 2nd Advent; and the Millennium and even the very beginning starts with the FAITHFULNESS of God.

Hebrews 11:11 -12

11 **By faith** (Faith must have an object! What is the object of Sarah's Faith?) **By faith— even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since** (because)**she considered Him faithful who had promised;** (that she would give birth.)

12 **therefore,** (because of her faith in the FAITHFULNESS of God) **also, there was born of one man, and him as good as dead at that, as many descendants As the Stars Of Heaven In Number, and Innumerable as the Sand which is by the Seashore**

The Jewish race began by trusting in the FAITHFULNESS of God

Then God promised Abraham an unconditional Covenant —ABRAHAMIC COVENANT and He promised the PALESTINIAN COVENANT;

Then He promised the DAVIDIC COVENANT—eternal Kingship.
Then He promised the NEW COVENANT.

Now as to whether or not God would fulfill these Covenants depends on the **FAITHFULNESS** of God.

Deuteronomy 7:9; 1 Kings 8:23-24 and 56 There will be those who will say I do not see the word **FAITHFULNESS** of God here but for the eye that will see it is what these verses hinge on!

Psalm 89:32-34 note God's **FAITHFULNESS** does not depend on man.

Isaiah 49:7

Isaiah 49:7 **Thus says the Lord, JESUS CHRIST the Redeemer of Israel, and its Holy One, To the despised One, JESUS CHRIST To the One abhorred by the nation, JESUS CHRIST To the Servant of rulers, of Israel, of Rome "Kings shall see and arise, Princes shall also bow down; Because of the Lord JESUS CHRIST who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel who has chosen You."**

Other verses that deal with the History of the Faithfulness of God

Psalm 98:3

Jeremiah 51:5

Revelation 19:11

Psalm 96:13

XV. We have seen the importance of the **FAITHFULNESS** of God in Salvation; in living the Spirit Filled Life; but we are also dependent upon the **FAITHFULNESS** of God in regard to what happens to us after death. The **FAITHFULNESS** of God in Resurrection, **FAITHFULNESS** of God of Eternal Life; **FAITHFULNESS** of God in the Revelation of JESUS CHRIST and abiding with JESUS CHRIST forever. 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Okay,

Up to now we have concentrated on the **FAITHFULNESS OF GOD!**
But what about us?

Are we not to be Faithful?

All through history God has looked for FAITHFULNESS in man:
Psalm 12:1; 78:8; 101:6;

God expects us to be Faithful,
BUT there is a problem:

Man Cannot Be Faithful In The Flesh

So, God first gives to every believer the **INDWELLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** and now man can be Faithful, this does not mean he will, but with the Holy Spirit or by the Holy Spirit he can;
The Fruit of the Holy Spirit is FAITHFULNESS Galatians 5:22

**God the Holy Spirit will give you the power and guidance
In Being Faithful As A Believer.**

Faithful in the intake of Scripture...; not sinning, etc.

**Whatever we do,
We should do it
AS UNTO THE LORD!**