

2 THESSALONIANS

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 – How Should We Pray For Those We Love?

September 29, 2024

1. Background



2. What requests should we pray for those we love?

A. Pray they live a life worthy of the faith.

To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling... 2 Thessalonians 1:11 (ESV)

we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.
1 Thessalonians 2:12 (ESV)

i. God uses suffering to help us live a life worthy of our calling.

This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering—
2 Thessalonians 1:5 (ESV)

ii. A life worthy of the faith is not lazy and given to gossip.

Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. 2 Thessalonians 3:6 (ESV)

For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. 2 Thessalonians 3:11 (ESV)

...remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' " Acts 20:35 (ESV)

iii. A life worthy of the faith pursues patience, humility, love, and unity with other Christians.

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, Ephesians 4:1 (ESV)

with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
Ephesians 4:2–3 (ESV)

iv. A life worthy of the faith pursues unity in purpose and mission with other Christians.

Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,
Philippians 1:27 (ESV)

v. A life worthy of the faith is about good works and growing in the knowledge of God.

so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;
Colossians 1:10 (ESV)

vi. A life worthy of the gospel is about living a holy, righteous, and blameless life toward others.

...we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.
1 Thessalonians 2:12 (ESV)

You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers... 1 Thessalonians 2:10–11 (ESV)

whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.
1 John 2:6 (ESV)

B. Pray God fulfills every good plan they have for good works.

To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good... 2 Thessalonians 1:11 (ESV)

You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.
James 4:3 (ESV)

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.
2 Corinthians 9:10 (ESV)

And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
Matthew 22:37–39 (ESV)

C. Pray God will fulfill every work undertaken in faith by His power.

To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power,
2 Thessalonians 1:11 (ESV)

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:8–10 (ESV)

3. What are the reasons for these requests?

A. We want to bring glory to Jesus' name in this life.

...so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you,...
2 Thessalonians 1:12 (ESV)

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:16 (ESV)

Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the

day of visitation. 1 Peter 2:12 (ESV)

B. The more we glorify Jesus in this life, the more of His glory we will experience in the next.

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.
2 Thessalonians 1:12 (ESV)

“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.” Revelation 22:12 (NIV)

When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.
Colossians 3:4 (ESV)

...and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Romans 5:2 (ESV)

When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.
Colossians 3:4 (ESV)

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. Philippians 3:20–21 (ESV)

4. Conclusion

Life Group Questions

1. **Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-12.** How do Paul's prayers for those he loves differ from those in the cargo cults of the South Pacific? What is the difference between the prayers of those in the cargo cults and the prosperity gospel movement compared to Paul's prayer for the Thessalonians?
2. **Read 1 Thessalonians 1:11.** While we are positionally saved by our faith in Jesus, why is it important to live a life worthy of our new identity in Jesus?
3. What does it look like to live a life worthy of the faith? **See 2 Thessalonians 3:6, Ephesians 4:1-3, Philippians 1:27, Colossians 1:10, and 1 Thessalonians 2:10-12.**
4. How will the glory we give to Jesus through our lives on earth impact the degree of glory we receive from Jesus when he returns? Does that change the way you look at your Christian conduct and good works?
5. How will Paul's prayer for those he loved this week change how you pray for those you love?