

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

January 29, 2024 – Praying the Apostolic Prayers – Erlinda Cruz

Paul's Prayer in 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

Understanding the Context of Paul's Prayer to be Counted Worthy

Paul prayed for the saints to walk in the glory and benefits of wholeheartedness (2 Thessalonians 1:11-12). He prayed for believers to be inspired by the Spirit to respond to Jesus in a way worthy of Him—in wholeheartedness. He also connected this with the ability to fulfill all of God's will in their lives.

“Therefore, we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power, that the name of our Lord Jesus... may be glorified in you, and you in Him...”

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

Therefore: We gain understanding of this prayer by understanding what Paul said just before it.

“...[I boast of]...your patience [perseverance] and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom... since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, and to give you who are troubled rest... when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired [marveled at]...”

2 Thessalonians 1:4-10

1. Paul affirmed their perseverance in persecution. Earlier, he wrote that he sent Timothy to encourage them not to be shaken in their afflictions (1 Thessalonians 3:2-4).
 - a. “...Timothy... to encourage you... that no one should be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this. For, in fact, we told you before when we were with you that we would suffer tribulation, just as it happened...”
1 Thessalonians 3:2-4
2. Paul went to cities to strengthen believers—reminding them that they would be persecuted.
 - a. “...strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, ‘We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.’”
Acts 14:22

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Definition of wholehearted: Following the Lord wholeheartedly implies completeness, i.e., following the Lord completely. To follow Him completely means to follow Him utterly, absolutely, with heart and soul, and without any reservation – compare Luke 9:61.

This is Paul's prayer.

This is our prayer for us all in the body of Christ. Wholehearted and not partial, not 99 percent but 100 percent of our heart. Only a whole heart will make it to the end.