

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

February 3, 2024 – Praying the Apostolic Prayers – Erlinda Cruz

Understanding the Context of Paul's Prayer to be Counted Worthy, Part 5

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

Responding in a Way that is Worthy of Jesus

Paul prayed that God would release the optimum environment (blessing and pressures) and increase the activity of His Spirit to result in strengthening His people until they respond to God in a way that He esteems as worthy of Jesus, thus enabling them to walk in mature partnership with Him.

“We pray always... that our God would count you worthy... according to the grace of God.”

2 Thessalonians 1:11

Being counted “worthy” by God has two applications in Scripture that are “according to grace.”

1. First, by the blood of Jesus we are made worthy to be accepted into God's family by receiving the gift of salvation. No one is “worthy” in the sense of deserving to be forgiven. Salvation is a free gift because of Jesus' worthiness—we are justified by faith alone (Romans 3:28; 5:1).
2. Second, we respond to Him with obedience that is “worthy” of Jesus and His leadership (Matthew 3:7-8; 10:37-38; Luke 21:36; Acts 5:41; Ephesians 4:1; Philippians 1:27; Colossians 1:10-11; 1 Thessalonians 2:12; 2 Thessalonians 1:5, 11; Revelation 3:4).
It is the Lord's plan to transform those whom He freely justifies.

The Lord gives a greater measure of grace to the humble who draw near to Him (James 4:6-8).

“He gives more grace... to the humble... Draw near to God and He will draw near...”

James 4:6-8

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God's people must be strengthened to escape the snare of sin and to stand in victory (Luke 21:36). The phrase be counted worthy (21:36, NKJV) is translated as have strength in most modern translations.

The idea is to be strengthened to respond to Jesus in a way that is worthy of who He is and to stand in victory as overcomers instead of falling into sin. By watching, we will receive greater insight into what God is doing, and by praying we receive greater strength to love and obey Jesus unto victory.

“Take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life... Watch... and pray always that you may be counted worthy [have strength] to escape all these things and to stand [with victory] before the Son of Man.”

Luke 21:34-36