

## 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 – Praying God’s Resolutions

### Introduction

1. New Year’s Resolutions and the Christian
2. Context of 2 Thess.: Thessalonians are suffering persecution
  - a. Paul expresses present responsibilities in light of future, eternal realities
  - b. Eschatological outlook has implications for the present life
3. Paul’s Resolution: in light of suffering in the present, and in light of the future, resolve to pray consistently God-ward

**Central Truth: Pray God would resolve, by His grace, to make us worthy of His call, to give us God-ward desires in our hearts, to fulfill these God-ward desires through our faith, and to work in our God-ward desires to bring about His glory in Himself, and in us.**

### Praying God Would Make Us Worthy of His Call (v 11a)

1. The Biblical definition of *Calling*
  - a. The General, Universal, Invitation (**Matthew 22:1-3**)
  - b. Paul’s Definition: Always Effectual Work of God’s Grace
    - i. The Saving Work of the Spirit to open the eyes of the blind, open the heart to believe, and bring us to Christ
  - c. Examples of Paul’s Definition of “The Called”
    - i. 1 Corinthians 1:17-31 – the Called versus the Perishing
    - ii. Romans 8:28-30 – The Called are those predestined unto justification and glory
  - d. Fallen Psychological Default: *I need to help God save me*
2. How can we know what to pray for if we do not know the meaning of the word *Call*?
3. How can we be worthy of this Call?
  - a. Our Responsibility: Walk worthily of this Call (**Eph 4:1**)
  - b. We are to have the grace of God be manifest in our lives, reflect back to God the glory and grace of God
  - c. We are to show the value of what God has done for us by His amazing Grace – Be who you are: *A Called Out One*
  - d. Walk in Newness of Life, with Gratitude to God, Walk in the Light

### Praying God Would Give Us Our Desires for Good Works (v 11b)

1. This request is built on the former request – be counted worthy
2. *Goodness* – Literally “Good Pleasure” → Fulfill every resolve for the good pleasure of goodness
  - a. Same word used by the Father at Jesus’ baptism (**Mt 3:17**)
  - b. Same word used by Paul for the Father in predestining us to adopt believers into His family (**Eph 1:5**)

3. The Request: Create new pleasures, new joys, new priorities, new agendas for life = Become a New Man
  - a. The Old Man - #1 = Self
  - b. The New Man - #1 = Christ!
4. Form New Resolutions for good pleasure in goodness = Love for God and Neighbor

### Praying God Would Fulfill Our Desires For Good Works (v 11c)

1. Good deeds are evidence of our faith in the Lord, which is no different than the good pleasure of goodness prayed for
2. Our Responsibility: Be a model of good works (**Titus 2:7-8**)
3. Jesus gave Himself so we would be zealous for good works (**Titus 2:13-14**)
4. Paul’s Prayer – Lord work in us these good works
  - a. We do nothing by our own power
  - b. Our good works spring from His power in us working good pleasure in goodness and works of faith
  - c. God sanctifies us to do what is pure, holy, right, and good
  - d. Any good we do, we should thank God for, for it is by His power alone
  - e. The Christian is responsible to do good, and God gives His grace in order to accomplish it (**Philippians 2:12b-13**)

### Praying God Would Glorify Jesus in Our Good Works (v 12)

1. The end goal is to glorify God, and *be glorified* in Him
2. Our goodness works itself out into the world to make Jesus famous in the world
  - a. His power works in you to bring about His glory
  - b. **See Matthew 5:14-16** – we let our light shine before others, walk in the light, walk worthy of our calling
3. God does not share His glory with any one, but not in such a way as to say His children are worthless
4. God works in us to glorify Himself, and He works in us in such a way that we become glorious to/in Him, reflecting His glory
  - a. **See 1 Corinthians 3:18**
5. All of these things: Our Calling, Our good pleasure in goodness, our works done through faith, and giving God the glory, while being glorified = ALL of it is done by His Grace
  - a. **See Romans 11:36**

### App: Praying God Would Instill God’s Purposes Into Our Prayers

1. How can you pray these things for yourself and your church?
2. Do you need to pray more, repent of specific sin to walk worthily of your calling, serve the Church? PRAY!
3. As we do pray for these things, God makes you glorious by empowering you to live in these God-ward purposes (**Ps 37:4**)