

WORDS TO GOD
(2 Thessalonians 1:11-12)

- I. He asked that they be fit for the calling of God.**
- A. Paul let them know that they were constantly in his prayers.
1. This was not long after he had left them.
 2. They were very much in his thoughts and heart because of the persecution they were facing and the labor he had bestowed upon them.
- B. He then prays that they would be counted worthy of God's calling them.
1. The phrase "counted worthy" comes from a word that means "to deem fit for."
 2. One is fit for the calling of God by the life that he or she leads.
 3. Paul wanted them to live in such a way that the calling of God was not wasted on them.
- C. The calling of God comes through the gospel (2:14).
1. The gospel tells us how to live our lives so as to be worthy of the calling.
 2. We have heard people say they wanted to be worthy of some honor that had been bestowed on them in secular things.
 3. Whether it be some award or position they had received, they wanted to live in such a way as to show their worthiness of being given the honor or position.
 4. We need to live in such a way that we do not bring any reproach on the church or the gospel through which our calling came.
 5. We don't want the efforts of those who sounded out the call to us to be in vain.
- D. Being fit for God's call is a difficult task.
1. It is something we must strive for every day.
 2. A half-hearted effort will not make one fit for the calling.
 3. We must strive for excellence in all that we do as Christians and that will allow us to be fit for God's calling.
- II. He asked that God fulfill His good pleasure.**
- A. The word fulfill means to fill up.
1. God has things in His word that He wants in us and from us that please Him.
 2. The way we live, worship, talk, think are all involved in pleasing or displeasing God.
 3. He has revealed to us what He desires from us and they are difficult to do in that they go against our own desires.

B. However, everything that involves the good pleasure of God is from His goodness.

1. Nothing God asks of us is asked in a way to harm us.
2. Everything is for our benefit.
 - a. When asked to serve Him, it is for our benefit.
 - b. If we are busy serving Him, it takes time away from possible temptations.
 - c. When asked to treat others with love, it is to provide opportunities to show Christ to others.
 - d. When asked to think proper thoughts, it is to bring about proper actions.
3. God asks nothing of us to hurt or hinder us in our lives.

C. Our state of mind should be such that we are seeking to please God because God is seeking our good.

1. We follow a doctor's orders because he is seeking our good.
2. We do what our parents tell us to do because they are seeking our good.
3. We do what a coach tells us to do because he is seeking our good.
4. How much more should we listen to an infinite God who is seeking our eternal good?

D. Our thoughts, when thinking of what is required of us to live the Christian life, should always be focused on the goodness of God.

1. That which I am being asked to do is for my good.
2. That which I am being asked to deny is for my good as well.
3. We are asked these things by God in order that we might be fit for His calling and His good pleasure be fulfilled.

III. **He asked that their faith be one that works.**

A. The idea is that faith moves one to work.

B. We show people our faith by the actions that we take or fail to take.

1. The way we live shows to others how faithful or unfaithful to God we are.
2. If we want to overcome the world, it will be by faith in God.
3. We must be fit for the kingdom and allowing God's goodness to be fulfilled in our lives in order for our faith to work.

C. Everything for which Paul prays for these brethren is tied together.

1. If one aspect of the prayer is not met, then the actions fail in the lives of the Thessalonians.

2. If one part of the prayer is missing, the others cannot be met.
- D. He asks that it be met with power.
1. He wants them to do whatever it takes to have a working faith.
 2. How much power or energy is needed, that is to be what is spent in making sure we have a working faith.
- E. We can have all kinds of spiritual goals, but if we don't put forth the power necessary to meet the goal, it is all talk and no substance.

IV. The focus of the prayer.

- A. Paul asks these three things in his prayer for a reason.
- B. His focus was that he wanted Jesus glorified in their lives so that one day, they may be glorified with Jesus.
- C. When Christ returns, it will be in glory and to receive glory (1:10).
1. There is a sense in which those of us who are found faithful will also be glorified.
 2. The only way that is to take place is if we give Christ the glory in our lives now.
 3. If we wait to glorify Him, when He returns, it will be too late then.
- D. We glorify Jesus by having a working faith, seeing that God's good pleasure is fulfilled in us and making sure we are fit for the calling of God.
- E. Paul wanted them to be saved and He knew they played a vital role in their own salvation, as do we in ours.
- F. When we live properly, Christ is glorified.
- G. When Christ is glorified by us in this life, we will receive glory with Him in the next.