



A PRAYER FOR COURAGEOUS CHRISTIANS

Sunday, November 13, 2022

2 Thessalonians 3:16-18

Knowing the challenges faced by the Thessalonians, Paul recognized they could never live faithfully and fulfill God's purposes in their own strength. Therefore, he prays, asking God to enable the Thessalonians to live a courageous Christian life.

Key thought: You need the Lord's enablement to live a courageous Christian life.

You cannot live a courageous Christian life in your own strength!

Four times in this letter, Paul expresses a prayer (the desire of his heart) for the Thessalonians (1:2, 2:16-17, 3:5, 3:15-18). He knew they were facing great challenges and would never be able to live faithfully in their own strength.

John 15:5 (NASB95) "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."

You can live a courageous Christian life when your enablement comes from the Lord!

"now may" – this marks a transition, Paul moves from command, exhortation, to petition, to prayer.

- God's peace – "Now may the Lord of peace Himself continually grant you peace in every circumstance."
 - Peace is from God
 - Peace is a gift
- God's strength – "The Lord be with you all" (Ephesians 6:10; Philippians 4:13)
- God's truth – verse 17 (1 Corinthians 16:21; Galatians 6:11; Colossians 4:18)
- God's grace – verse 18 (Romans 12:6; Ephesians 3:2, 3:7, 4:7; 1 Peter 4:10)