



PAUL'S PRAYERS
GOD'S PRIORITIES

Discovering the heart of God in the prayers of Paul

A small green seedling with two leaves is growing out of a patch of reddish-brown soil. The background is a blurred desert landscape with more soil and some distant greenery.

THE POWER TO ENDURE

2 Thessalonians 1:3-12

We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing. **⁴ Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.**

⁵ All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. ⁶ God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you ⁷ and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well.

2 Thess 1:2-12

This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. ⁸ He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might ¹⁰ on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.

¹¹ With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every **desire** for goodness and your every **deed** prompted by faith.

¹² We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. LIVE WORTHY





¹¹ With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling...

2 Thess 1:11

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live
a **life worthy of the calling you have received.**

Ephesians 4:1

27 Conduct yourselves **in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ...**

Phil 1:27

¹⁰ We have not stopped praying for you...that you will **walk in a manner worthy of the Lord.**

Colossians 1:10

2. DO GOOD





¹¹ ...and that **by his power** he may bring to **fruition** your **every desire** for goodness and your **every deed** prompted by faith.

2 Thess 1:2-11

13 ...for it is God who works in you to **will** and to **act** in order to fulfill his good purpose.

Philippians 2:13

¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?...

¹⁸ ...Show me your faith without deeds, and **I will show you my faith *by* my deeds.**

James 2:15-18

3. REVEAL GLORY





¹² We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, **according to the grace of our God** and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thess 1:2-12

44 How can you believe since you accept glory from one another but do not **seek the glory that comes from the only God?**

John 5:44

⁷ To those who by persistence in doing good **seek glory, honour and immortality**, he will give eternal life.

Romans 2:7

29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be **conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. 30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also **glorified**.

Romans 8:29-30

Illustration:

In 1952, young Florence Chadwick stepped into the waters of the Pacific Ocean off Catalina Island, determined to swim to the shore of mainland California. She had already been the first woman to swim the English Channel both ways. The weather was foggy and chilly; she could hardly see the boats accompanying her. Still, she swam for 15 hours. When she begged to be taken out of the water along the way, her mother, in a boat alongside, told her she was close and that she could make it. Finally, physically and emotionally exhausted, she stopped swimming and was pulled out. It wasn't until she was on the boat that she discovered the shore was less than half a mile away. At a news conference the next day she said, "All I could see was the fog... I think if I could have seen the shore, I would have made it."



¹ And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. **For the joy set before him he endured the cross**, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ **Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.**

Hebrews 12:1-3