
Study 4 – A Disciple-making Prayer

Introductory Question

1. What is an ambitious dream you have? What needs to happen for it to be accomplished?

Observe

2. Read 1 Thessalonians 1. Make a list of the things that have happened in the lives of the Thessalonian Christians.

3. Consider the prayer in 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24. What is Paul's vision for the Thessalonians?

4. What is his vision for his converts as described in Colossians 1:28-29?

5. Our primary focus in this study is the prayer in 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13. At this stage, simply list the various prayer topics in each verse.

v.9

v.10

v.11

v.12

v.13

Understand

6. Describe what you think these phrases mean. What would this look like?

“sanctified through and through” (or however it is expressed in your translation), 5:23.

“your whole spirit, soul and body kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ”, 5:23.

“Present everyone fully mature in Christ”, Colossians 1:28.

7. Look again at 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13. V.9 looks back to all of the good things mentioned in chapter 1. Verse 13 look forward to what they will hopefully be like when Jesus returns. But verses 10-12 (and, actually, 13) are what needs to happen now. What does Paul pray for?

8. Given their conversion and progress, why does Paul refer to “what is lacking in your faith”?

9. 1 Thessalonians 5:24 says, “The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it”. If God is going to sanctify them, why does Paul say “To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me”?

10. 1 Thessalonians 3:13; 5:23 and Colossians 1:28 all refer to Jesus’ return and us standing in the presence of God. Why do you believe that was so important for Paul?

Apply

11. How do you feel you are going in relation to each of the following?

- a. Having a vision for the people in your circles to be blameless and holy when they stand before God?
- b. Looking for opportunities to build people up in their faith?
- c. Praying for deep, Holy Spirit transformation in people's lives?

12. What are some practical ways you will "supply what is lacking" in the faith of people around you?

13. If you are comfortable with it, pray this prayer, or your own prayer based on 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13.

Lord, I am enormously grateful for the people around me and for the wonderful things you have done in their lives. Please give me opportunities to encourage them and build them up in their faith. Lord, may our love for each other, and for everyone, increase and overflow. May our hearts be strengthened so that we are blameless and holy in Your presence when Jesus returns. Give me a vision for that. Please, help me to both be a model for others, and willing and able to build them up.

