

*“Paul’s Prayer for a Hurting People”*

*“The God Who Makes Us Worthy”*

*2 Thess. 1:11, 12*

*Finding Peace in the Midst of the Storm*

Paul encourages the people by reminding them of God’s ability to carry out His will through their desires.

By way of review, let us remember two points.

- The justice of God brings relief to those who are afflicted (v.6).
- The justice of God repays with retribution those who do not obey the gospel (vv6, 8, 9).

Paul wrote this to give peace to a hurting people, then offered up to God a prayer for a hurting people. Knowing what awaits the believer in the future and living in hard times in the present are inter-connected. Paul is confident that God, fulfilling His will in them and through them, will sustain them. His prayer reminds them of who God is. **The passage before us has three primary parts.**

Our passage opens up with a two-fold petition or request:

I. Paul’s request - God will count you worthy by means of His power to fulfill every desire for goodness and faith’s work (v.11).

A. God will count you worthy of your calling (v.11a, Eph. 4:1-6, Jn. 13:34, 35; Mk. 9:40; Jn. 17:20-23)

“The prayer is, not that God would make them worthy, but that He would account them so.” He goes on to say, “God will reward him not according to the actual attainment or to the work accomplished, but according to the riches of His grace in Christ.” (C.F. Hogg and W.E. Vine, Thessalonians, c1914, 237).

B. God will fulfill every desire for goodness and work of faith (v.11b)

In this statement, “The means whereby God will work in them that fitness which will enable Him to count them worthy to enter the final kingdom.” (Hiebert, Thessalonians, 296).

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“God alone is the fulfiller of our desires. Every desire of goodness, like every work of faith, is wrought in them effectively by the Holy Spirit.” (F.F. Bruce, Thessalonians, 156).

The first part of verse twelve gives us the reason or purpose of this display of fruit.

II. Paul’s reason – God will be glorified in you and you in Him (v.12a; Matt. 5:16; Jn. 15:8; 1 Pt. 2:12).

The purpose of God fulfilling His will in us and through us is so He receives the glory.

The last thing Paul accents is the basis for God doing what is stated in verse eleven.

III. Paul’s resource – according to His grace (v.12b)

Remember, grace makes all of this non-earnable. “Only grace, the unmerited favor of God, will be able to account for this glorification; all human merit is ruled out. Our salvation is due to His bounteous grace from beginning to end.” (Hiebert, Thessalonians, 298).