

A DIRECTED HEART

Finally, brethren, pray for us that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified, just as *it did* also with you; ²and that we will be rescued from perverse and evil men; for not all have faith. ³But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil *one*. ⁴We have confidence in the Lord concerning you, that you are doing and will *continue* to do what we command. ⁵May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the steadfastness of Christ. **2 Thessalonians 3:1-5 NASB**

- **Pray for us (v1)**
 - Paul recognized the power of a praying people and his need for their prayers.
 - Paul was partnering with people, he depended on their prayer support, and he recognized their valuable input into his ministry.
- **Pray for us...that the Word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified, just as it did with you...(v1)**
 - Paul prayed for the rapid 'spread' or 'running' of the Word.

He sends forth His command to the earth; His word runs very swiftly.

Psalm 147:15 NASB

- An open door for the Word.

²Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with *an attitude of* thanksgiving; ³praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned;

Colossians 4:2-3 NASB

- The empowered, glorified Word.

²We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention *of you* in our prayers; ³constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father, ⁴knowing, brethren beloved by God, *His* choice of you; ⁵for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.

1 Thessalonians 1:2-5 NASB

- Declaration of the Word accompanied by demonstration of the Word.

The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles. **2 Corinthians 12:12 NASB**

¹⁷Therefore in Christ Jesus I have found reason for boasting in things pertaining to God. ¹⁸For I will not presume to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me, resulting in the obedience of the Gentiles by word and deed, ¹⁹in the power

of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit; so that from Jerusalem and round about as far as Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.

Romans 15:17-19 NASB

- **Pray for us...**that we be rescued from spiritual opposition. (v2)
 - Fighting wild beasts at Ephesus.

If from human motives I fought with wild beasts at Ephesus, what does it profit me? If the dead are not raised, let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.

1 Corinthians 15:32 NASB

- Fighting spiritual power of wickedness.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. **Ephesians 6:12 NASB**

- Fighting evil men.

But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having won over the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead.

Acts 14:19 NASB

- **Pray for us...**The Lord is faithful and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one. (v3)
 - God is faithful to empower His Word to us and through us.

Thus Samuel grew and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fail.

1 Samuel 3:19 NASB

- His Word is full of power and purpose, and it faithfully accomplishes what He releases it for.

So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire

Isaiah 55:11 NASB

Then the Lord said to me, "You have seen well, for I am watching over My word to perform it." **Jeremiah 1:12 NASB**

- God is entirely, thoroughly and completely faithful.

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 NASB

- He is the One who strengthens and protects.

The Lord will give strength to His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace.

Psalm 29:11 NASB

- Obedience breeds confidence on behalf of leaders. (v4)

- They could be commanded.

The wise of heart will receive commands, but a babbling fool will be ruined.

Proverb 10:8 NASB

- The power of obedient love.

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the *child* born of Him. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. ⁴For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

1 John 5:1-5 NASB

He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.”

John 14:21 NASB

- Our need for directed hearts.

May the Lord direct your hearts into [realizing and showing] the love of God and into the steadfastness *and* patience of Christ *and* in waiting for His return.

2 Thessalonians 3:5 AMPC

- **V5** ‘direct’

“May the Lord guide your hearts...” **Rotherham**

“May the Lord guide (direct) you into a realization of God’s love for you.” **Williams**

“May He direct you into the steadfastness of Christ...” **Conybeare**

I waited patiently for the Lord; and He inclined to me and heard my cry. ²He brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay, and He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm. ³He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; many will see and fear and will trust in the Lord.

Psalm 40:1-3 NASB

May the Lord lead your hearts into a full understanding and expression of the love of God and the patient endurance that comes from Christ.

2 Thessalonians 3:5 NLT

- The need for directed hearts. (v5)
 - Our hearts need to be directed into His love.

<p>The Lord appeared to him from afar, <i>saying</i>, “I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness. Jeremiah 31:3 NASB</p>
<p>Because He loved your fathers, therefore He chose their descendants after them. And He personally brought you from Egypt by His great power, Deuteronomy 4:37 NASB</p>
<p>keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life. Jude verse 21</p>
<p>²³O love the Lord, all you His godly ones! the Lord preserves the faithful and fully recompenses the proud doer. ²⁴Be strong and let your heart take courage, all you who hope in the Lord. Psalm 31:23-24 NASB</p>
<p>Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; ²and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. Ephesians 5:1-2 NASB</p>

- Our hearts need to be directed into the steadfastness of Jesus Christ. (v5)

<p>James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings. ²Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, ³knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. Romans 5:3-5 NASB</p>

Paul is talking about God directing us, a straight pathway from His heart to ours. He wants to directly lead us to a praying power, a staying power, an obeying power and a displaying power that causes God to be glorified and His Word to ‘spread’ rapidly.

Patient love finds expression in obedience...you don’t find fortified endurance on the ‘doorstep’; you find it hanging in the ‘closet.’ Where is the Spirit of God directing your heart?