

## EXHORTATIONS FOR THE BELIEVER'S GROWTH

(2 Thessalonians 3:1-5)

### A. PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR US! (3:1-2)

1. This last major section of the epistle appealed to Paul's readers to \_\_\_\_\_ in the light of the truth previously revealed in the earlier chapters, i.e., they were to now make \_\_\_\_\_.

2. The apostle asked these believers to \_\_\_\_\_ for he and his companions in order that there would be a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ distribution of the gospel message, and thus God would glorify His Word. (v. 3:1a)

\* What does this word "*run*" tell us about the Word of God? (Ps. 147:15; Heb. 4:12; 2 Tim. 2:9)

3. The Thessalonian church was a wonderful testimony; these believers were \_\_\_\_\_ doing this very thing, and the apostle \_\_\_\_\_ them for it. (v. 3:1b, 1 Thess. 1:5-8)

4. Paul asked for prayer that he and his comrades would be \_\_\_\_\_ from perverse and actively harmful men who tried to \_\_\_\_\_ his evangelistic efforts. (3:2)

\* Has anything changed today or is there still a spiritual battle raging for people's souls?

\* Is prayer an essential ingredient in evangelism and ministry?

**B. WE HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE LORD CONCERNING YOU! (3:3-5)**

1. Because the Father is always faithful to His Word and to His children...

a. You can be \_\_\_\_\_ that He will \_\_\_\_\_ you (3:3a)

b. You can be \_\_\_\_\_ that He will \_\_\_\_\_ you from the evil one (3:3b)

2. Paul was resting his confidence in the \_\_\_\_\_, and he was saying that this gave him confidence also in the Thessalonian believers, because God is more than willing to \_\_\_\_\_ what He \_\_\_\_\_. (3:4a, cf. Philip. 1:6).

3. These believers were currently faithfully \_\_\_\_\_ the apostolic commands, and Paul was certain that they would \_\_\_\_\_ to do so in the strength of the Lord. (3:4b)

4. Ideally the same agape love that God has for you, and the same perseverance that Christ displayed \_\_\_\_\_ His children; "*as the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ your hearts.*" (3:5)

\* What can you personally apply from this powerful passage?