

PreVail-er: 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting
Hanging Tough, SO THAT ...

Pastor Joel K. Johnson

¹¹To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, ¹²SO 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 Thessalonians 1:11-12 ESV

Two Requests

- You will be _____ of God's presence in your life.
2 Thessalonians 1:11a

- You will set good _____ .
2 Thessalonians 1:11b
 - Goals that require _____ .

 - Goals that depend on God's _____ .

Two Results

- Jesus Christ is glorified in you.
2 Thessalonians 1:12a

- You are glorified in Him.
2 Thessalonians 1:12b



WITH OPEN HANDS RECEIVING... WITH OPEN HANDS GIVING...

Worship in Song

*How Great Thou Art
 This I Believe
 Hidden*

Community Life

Offering

*End of Days (Worship Center)
 Blameless (Woodside Room)*

Message

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ONE 8 Update

Closing Song

For the Honor



Prevail-er #3: 21 Days of Praying and Fasting
Hanging Tough, SO THAT...

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2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 ESV

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Do you establish New Year's resolutions or set goals for the upcoming year? Why or why not? If so, who helped you nurture that discipline?
2. In the text today, Paul is affirming the Christians for hanging tough in the midst of difficulty, hardship and even persecution. He also affirms good and godly goal setting for Christians. Have someone in the group read the passage. Paul prays for two things in verse 11 and for two results in verse 12. Answer the following questions related to his requests and outcomes.

The Two Requests:

1. That you will be living proof of God's presence in your life. See verse 11a.
 - a. When Paul uses the word we translate as worthy it sounds like something we deserve or merit. Pastor Joel clarified that it's more about living a life fitting of one who comes to faith. Share with each other some specific life choices you believe you have made that are fitting of your life in Christ and that give evidence or proof of God's presence in your life. Where might this be a growth area for you?
 - b. Why doesn't Paul just say, "I pray that your trials might go away." What is the value of our crucible moments, our times of testing and trial for God and His Kingdom?
2. That you set good goals. See verse 11b.
 - a. According to Paul, Christians should set goals, we should plan. We have mind and wills, and God expects that we will use them to form resolves and plans and goals according to His will. We learn here that the kind of goals we set matter. In this prayer we are told to set goals that require faith and depend on God's power. Talk about what it means and what are the implications of faith goals and depending on power from God.
 - b. What happens to our resolutions if we don't undergird them with faith or lean into God's power? Can you give examples from your own life?
 - c. Does this prayer from Paul encourage you to set goals if this has not been a personal practice in your life to date? How can you encourage each other around this practice?

The Two Results: When we are living a life worthy, fitting of our faith in Christ, and when we are setting goals by faith that depends on God's power there are two outcomes you can expect.

1. Jesus Christ is glorified in you. See verse 12a. What does this mean?
2. You are glorified in Him. See verse 12b. What does this mean?
3. If you are comfortable sharing a 2016 goal you have set, share it. What might motivate everyone to establish personal goals, goals of good, made by faith, done for God's glory?

Someone read the whole passage again. Verse 12c indicates that everything in the Christian life is by grace. Explain that promise?

Conclude by giving an update on your participation in 21 days of prayer and fasting. How is it going? What are you learning?