



C O N T R A S T

A STUDY IN 1 THESSALONIANS

The Power of Prayer September 22, 2024 | 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13 Questions for Study and Group Discussion

*** Before you begin, please read 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13*

1. Icebreaker: Who do you know that is deeply characterized by a life of prayer? What makes you describe the person this way?
2. This passage in 1 Thess 3:11-13 records a prayer of Paul. Why is prayer important?
3. Do you agree that prayer can be difficult? Why / why not? Explain your answer.
4. Jeff mentioned four things Paul prays for in this passage — listed below. (If you need to briefly review what each of these means, take time to do so as a group.) Which of these requests stands out to you the most? Why?
 - Lord, would you clear the way?
 - Lord, would you increase our love for others?
 - Lord, would you help me to pursue a blameless and holy life?
 - Lord, would you lead us to anticipate your return?
5. Look ahead in your life 6 weeks, imagining that you're living in a way consistent with these requests in your own life. What would be most noticeably different about the way you live?
6. Choose one of these requests that Paul makes and "make it your own." Here's what that means: Use this request as a launchpad for your own prayer — expanding it into a 3-5 sentence written prayer with details from your own life that help personalize the prayer for what you're facing this week. (If you're comfortable, share your 3-5 sentence prayer with your group.)

Here's an example of what this can look like: Lord, so many things are calling for my attention, and we live in a world where headlines can breed anxiety. In the midst of this busyness and anxiety, help me to maintain a focus on Jesus' return. May the hope this gives me as a follower Jesus renew my perspective and impact the way I live this week.

7. Acts 2:42 tells us the early church "devoted themselves to prayer." What steps can you take to grow in prayer as an individual? In your family? As a small group?
8. What other questions or comments do you have about what you've looked at in the Bible today?
9. What is your biggest take-away from what you've discussed so far? What practical step will you take to apply what you've seen in God's Word?
10. **Challenge:** Identify one way this passage is challenging or encouraging you. Who can you tell about what you're learning this coming week?