2 THESS. 3:1-5 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

WHAT DO FAITHFUL PEOPLE PRAY FOR? - (SERMON MP3)

The Scriptures record for us many instances when we can see the advancement of the Gospel spreading rapidly and unexpectedly through whole cities. Such was the case in the city of Thessalonica. In fact, the original recipients of II Thessalonians

3:1-5 were part of the first wave of an incredible gospel advance in a dark and pagan city. In fact, I Thessalonians 1 gives us a picture of how the Gospel arrived to them, how it was preached, how it was received, and the impact it had on the life of the first Christians there.
Read I Thessalonians 1:2-10 and note specifically what was so miraculous about their testimony?
What parallels do you see between the work of God in the city of Thessalonica and the work of God we are engaged in here in Salt Lake City?
In II Thess. 3:3 we find the phrase "But the Lord is Faithful" and like so many of the prayers in Paul's letters, our text contains four specific prayer requests that are rooted and grounded in the faithfulness of God. We see many times in the prayers Paul wrote that he emphasized our hope and confidence in the faithfulness of God. Look up I Thessalonians 5:24 and Philippians 1:6.
Why is it significant that the hope and confidence of our prayers are rooted and grounded in the faithfulness of God?
The Apostle Paul points us to pray for the success of the Word in II Thessalonians 3:1. He asks for prayer that the Word of the Lord may speed ahead, be honored and received openly. Read Isaiah 55:10-11, Jeremiah 1:12, and Psalm 147:15-19, The One who sends forth His Word is the Sovereign God, so whether it is sending forth rain or sending forth the gospel He is carefully watching over it to accomplish His purpose.
So are we to conclude that because the Word of the Lord is so powerful and so mighty and that God is Sovereign we don't need to worry about praying? or Why do we need to pray?
In II Thessalonians 3:2-3 Paul asks for prayer to be delivered from "wicked and evil men." It is clear that the one energizing these wicked men in opposition to the spread of the Gospel is the evil one himself. The word Paul uses here translated "wicked" or "perverse" originally means "morally evil" or "out of place." Some commentators believe that the choice for Paul to use the word for "out of place" is a hint to the fact that Paul may have been referring not necessarily to enemies from without the church but from within.

Read Acts 20:29-31. How should this inform our prayers for the protection of the flock of Gospel Grace Church?

In II Thess. 3:4 We see that Paul expresses a confidence in God for the believers, that they would continue on the path of obedience. He could see the hand of God at work in their lives and trusted a faithful God to keep them faithful.			
Read II Thess. 3:4. What effect do you think Paul's hope-filled encouragement had on the believers at Thessalonica?			
How should Paul's example here instruct us regarding the influence of our words toward those we are discipling?			
In II Thess. 3:5 we find that faithful people pray that God would deeply move their heart to worship Him. They recognize that the cultivation of a passion for God is not something that can be artificially produced. It is something that is sourced in God himself.			
What two things does Paul pray that God would direct these believer's hearts toward	d?		
How do you think having our heart directed in these ways would cultivate a deep passion for the worship of God?			
When was the last time your heart was deeply stirred because of God's love for you? Take some time this week to meditate on Romans 5:1-5, Jeremiah 33:3, Romans 8:31-39. How does having your heart directed into the Love of God bring a deep sense of security and assurance in your life?			
How does having your heart directed into the steadfastness of Christ become the greatest motivation for you to endure whatever God brings into your life?	Name	Prayer Need	
How does this passage challenge your prayer life as you look to the challenges, trials, and opportunities that will face you this next year? Where are you burdened to pray that the Word would run swiftly and be honored? How can the Word be honored			
and glorified in your life this year? Take a moment to share with the group.			