

“Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we ask you to pray for us. Pray that the Lord’s message will spread rapidly and be honored wherever it goes, just as when it came to you. Pray, too, that we will be rescued from wicked and evil people, for not everyone is a believer.” 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2 NLT

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When is it a good time to expect new believers to pray? Thessalonians is clearly a group of young believers that Paul thankfully and lovingly acknowledges their bravery and faith under extreme circumstances. He asks them to be faithful to his teachings and even commands to foster a continued growth in their walk with Christ. Then here under Paul’s “finally” words, he asks them the pray. When should prayer begin to take place in new believers? Immediately! I never thought of this as a way of encouraging a path of being a follower of Jesus. There’s salvation, water baptism, spirit baptism, communion, sharing your faith, serving and giving. But what about prayer? Paul asked them to pray for the continued message of the gospel to go forward and also prayed that “WE” will be rescued from evil people. Both Paul and the new believers needed these prayers to be answered. Reminds me of Christ teaching us to pray, “but deliver us from evil...” Prayer, for all believers, is essential, but prayer for a new believer is a critical part of understanding what it means to BE a follower. Do I encourage new believers to pray? Do I ask them to pray for me, us?

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pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,

This is an incredible step in learning how to be a follower of Jesus. I really missed that part, and it seems so important. I will encourage both new and old believers to pray and listen to their prayer. Thank you for this reminder from Paul when he wrote to the dear churches in Thessalonica.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root