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# 2Thessalonians

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## Book Background and Author

The book of **2Thessalonians** is one of Paul's letters to a church (in modern Greece) that he miraculously planted in three short weeks (**Acts 17:1-9**).

To set a good example for those who took wages without working, Paul chose to earn

his living as a tradesman rather than accept a ministry salary (**2The 3:7-9, Php 4:14-16**).

The Thessalonian people suffered greatly for their faith in Christ (**2The 1:4-6**). Paul urged them to look forward to the return of Jesus (**2The 1:7-10**).

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## Personal Reflection and Application

If you have given your life to Christ, you should experience something restraining you from evil (**2The 2:6-7, Gal 5:17**). Reflect on this and your relationship with Christ.

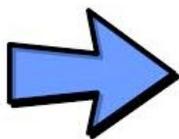
Prayers may be lengthy or they may be short and sweet. For an example of a short prayer, consider **2Thessalonians 3:5**. In that one verse, Paul prays that their heart may be in love with God and that their hearts wait patiently for Christ's return. Use Paul's prayer as an example to pray for others and for yourself.

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## Small Group Conversation Guide

When we think of people suffering or enduring persecution, it causes us distress. What can we do? Our first response should be prayer (**2The 1:11-12**).

- Make a list of people who are suffering or enduring persecution.
- Consider some specific things you could pray such as those in the table.
- As a group, pray for the people on your list.
- Discuss which of the prayers in the table you would most like for others to pray for you and why.



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| That God counts them worthy of this calling.                 | <b>1The 2:12</b><br><b>Acts 5:40-41</b> |
| That God fulfills His plan in them.                          | <b>Eph 1:4-6</b><br><b>Eph 1:9-10</b>   |
| That their faith grows through suffering.                    | <b>1Pet 5:9-10</b><br><b>Jas 1:2-3</b>  |
| That the name of the Lord Jesus Christ is glorified in them. | <b>1Pet 1:7</b>                         |
| That they are glorified in Christ.                           | <b>Rom 8:17-19</b>                      |

Errors in thinking can weaken our faith. Paul emphasized right thinking ([2The 2:1-5](#)). Some people purposely attempt to deceive. Others do it inadvertently.

In either case, they can harm those who are uncertain in their beliefs. Discuss strategies for remaining solid in your knowledge of and reliance on God's Word ([John 17:17](#)).

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## Leadership Principles from 2Thessalonians

### Acknowledge Them

Though we all sometimes need correction, we also need acknowledgement for what we are doing well. Notice how Paul praised the Thessalonians for growing in faith and patience ([2The 1:3-4](#)) before he corrected their wrong thinking. Even more noteworthy is that Paul didn't just commend them, he thanked God for them. How often do you balance the way you correct others by thanking God for the good that you find in them?

### Encourage Them

In our world, there is so much destruction, injustice, and godlessness that it sometimes seems easier to compromise with the world than challenge it. Despair comes easily. Discouragement seeps into our souls. Consider Paul's example of encouraging others ([2The 2:13-15](#)). Leader, how can you use Paul's example to encourage those around you?

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## Something to Find in Each Chapter

As you read through the book, it may help to have something to find in each chapter. Try these:

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| 01. How the Thessalonians responded to their afflictions | 02. What false report was troubling the Thessalonians |
| 03. Why Paul worked to support himself at Thessalonica   |   |