

**Don't Be Fooled**  
**Pray For the Mission**  
**2 Thessalonians 3:1-2**

**The following are three of some the most important foundational truths concerning prayer in the Bible:**

- (1) Those who repent and believe in Jesus are given the right to experience the same freedom and normalcy of talking with God that a child is supposed to have with their parents.
- (2) Prayer is conversing with God; therefore, it involves listening and speaking.
- (3) We listen to God by meditating on His Word. Prayer in this context becomes the verbal response of our heart and mind to what He shows us in His Word.

-Have someone (or a few) share how their prayer time has increased, gotten more focused or changed over the years as they have grown in their relationship with Christ.

**In 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2, Paul gives two specific prayer requests that relate to the Mission of God through Christ's Church:**

- (1) Paul asked the church in Thessalonica to pray for the success of their effort to lead people to Jesus in places where the Gospel had not yet been preached! (3:1)

**Note:** The first priority of our prayers should be the spiritual condition of ourselves and others, of which nothing is more urgent than being saved!

- Who are you praying for that needs to be saved?
- Have you seen this type of prayer answered the way it was prayed (be specific, if possible)?
- How would you define the success of that prayer?
- What have you gained/lost if your prayer is not answered the way you intended?

- (2) Paul asked the believers in Thessalonica to pray for the physical safety of him and his team as they preached the Gospel. (3:2)

- Describe Paul's position in life as he was requesting this type of prayer (Acts 18)
- What was Paul's intention, related to his prayer request?
- Could we equate that to any circumstance of our lives?
- What might you glean from God's character when serious trouble wins out over a prayer like 2 Thess. 3:2?

**Challenge:** What does your prayer life look like—sporadic, wondering, absent, or intentional, focused, and fulfilling? How much of your prayer time is spent praying for things related to the salvation of souls?

- How could your prayer life begin to change today?
- Choose a Scripture(s) to pray through as a group, or in smaller groups.
- Encourage Group members to sign up for the First Priority Prayer List from Sunday