



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

1, 2 Thessalonians Sermon Series

Supports Session 10: Enduring

Sermon Title: A Willing Heart

Passage: 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

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### Connection to 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12

The call to walk worthy of the calling of Christ is for all believers. Paul provides guidance in this and other passages that encourages the believers to press forward in their walk in Christ.

### Introduction/Opening

Long distance runners often talk about a point in their run where they struggle to press forward. Step by step, with aching muscles and depleted energy, there is no physical reason to finish the race. Yet many press forward for reasons beyond the present circumstances.

In an even greater way, the Christian has reasons to press forward in his or her walk. The inward call of Christ to follow Him means that every believer must press on!

### Outline

1. Submit completely.
  - a. Paul prayed for God to work within the church, that they would walk worthy of His calling.
    - i. Other contexts for the idea of walking worthy include Ephesians 4:1 and Colossians 1:10.
    - ii. To walk worthy of the calling means to treat the call to salvation as what it is: a precious treasure, worth giving up all the temporary, hollow things of earth for something that is eternal and valuable (Heb. 9:12-14; 1 Pet. 1:18).
  - b. This is only through God's power in a willing heart
    - i. Human effort alone cannot maintain this walk. Willpower is not enough.
    - ii. Instead, the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit keeps a person walking with holiness (Matt. 26:41; Rom. 5:6-8; Rom. 8:26; 1 Cor. 10:13; 2 Pet. 2:9).
2. Serve faithfully.
  - a. God doesn't only empower us to walk worthy of the calling but also to desire to do faithful works.
  - b. What do these works look like?
    - i. See Romans 12:9-18 and 1 Peter 3:8-12.

- c. Works draw people who need Jesus, to Jesus
    - i. See Matthew 5:16; 2 Corinthians 8:21; 1 Peter 2:12.
    - ii. Works of service to others comes without strings attached. Those who see God's goodness through the church in this way see a picture of God's grace in a physical way.
  - d. All Christians are to serve (Eph. 2:8-10).
3. Worship Fervently
- a. Selfless service reflects a glorified God. A genuine, Christ-like love for people comes from the source of all love: God Himself, who gave His Son for the world.
    - i. John 3:16; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 John 2:2; 1 John 4:19; Philippians 2:5-11
  - b. Paul reminded the church (and us) that we glorify Christ with a changed life that changes lives. When we love people by serving them, we are to do so for the glory of God.
    - i. Paul's example: Romans 15:15b-19
    - ii. 1 Corinthians 10:31-33; 1 Peter 2:5
  - c. Ultimately, it is the power of God which brings a sweet sacrifice to God in the work of service, resulting in worship of God.

## Conclusion

Yet all of this requires a willing heart. A heart submitted to Him, faithfully serving Him, and fervently worshiping Him. It may all begin with Him, yet it requires a step of faith.

Begin today and follow Christ daily.

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