

God's Calling Requirements

Part 6

(I thank God for ...)

4- Paul thanked God for the Thessalonians: From Paul letters to the Thessalonians you can outline further requirement to fulfill God's calling in your life.

A- "1 Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you. 2 We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. 3 We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." (1Thessalonians 1:1-3) Paul mentioned to the Thessalonians that he with Silas and Timothy are always thanking God for their lives and they were always remembering them in their prayers. There was a reason behind that; for they remembered the kind of work and labour and the perseverance the Thessalonians were doing and living for the Lord. Paul said, "3 **We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.**" So the Thessalonians were responding and achieving God's call requirements in the way they were serving the Lord. Check now your life and the way of living. Are you working with faith, love and hope in the Lord or you are serving but with anger, grumbling and only when you are forced? The Thessalonians were accepting the new life in Christ, and the suffering for Him with willingness to conform to His will. God wants you to fulfill God's calling in your life with same attitude and noble characters like the Thessalonians.

B- "13 And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe." (1Thessalonians 2:13) Paul told the Thessalonians that he thanked God for their lives because when he gave to them the word of God they did not accepted them as human word but as actual word of God. And Paul's measure for that to the Thessalonians is in the following: "14 **For you, brothers became imitators of God's churches in Judea, which are in Christ Jesus: You suffered from your own people the same things those churches suffered from the Jews.**" (1Thessalonians 2:14) They showed that they accepted the message of as actual word that came from God when they were willing to be persecuted and abandoned even from their own people. Are you willing to be really persecuted for the sake of Christ and be willing to stand firm and abide with God's word? Many people when they receive and accept the word of God they are not willing to accept pressure and persecution due to God's word. Rejections from the world and even from those who are very near are expected and your willingness to accept that and endure it is required from you to fulfill God's calling in your life.

C- "1 Wherefore when we could no longer forbear, we thought it good to be left at Athens alone; 2 And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith: 3 That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto. 4 For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know. 5 For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain. 6 But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also to see you: 7 Therefore, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith: 8 For now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord. 9 For what thanks can we render to God again for you, for all the joy wherewith we joy for your sakes before our God;" (1Thessalonians 3:1-9) Paul

thanked God for the life of the Thessalonians after he heard the report of Timothy, that he sent to find out about them and how things were going with them. It was a long period of time that Paul was separated from the Thessalonians and he was longing to hear from them and to know about their news, and since he was not able to go to them he finally sent Timothy who brought good report about them that motivate Paul to thank the Lord for their lives. The Thessalonians responded to God's calling described by this statement of Paul from the report of Timothy: "**But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us.**" Their faith accompanied with good deeds in response to the word of God and the teaching they received from Paul. They were willing to do the good work that the Lord had prepared in advance for them to do, and that how they expressed their gratefulness to God and to Paul who was the one who introduced Christ to them. The Thessalonians they were fulfilling God's calling in their lives as they were having a continuous good memory for Paul and their desire to see him and be with him again. That it confirmed they were in line with God's calling in their lives and that motivated Paul to give thanks to God for their lives.

D- "13 But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth." (2Thessalonians 2:13) There are many who want to receive Christ to receive salvation but they deny and refuse the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Paul gave thanks for the life of the Thessalonians as they were submitting themselves to the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit. Their salvation was manifested and shown through the sanctifying work of The Holy Spirit, and that how they responded to God's calling in their lives and that how Paul was motivated to give thanks to God for their lives.

My Dear and Beloved: The above qualities that characterized the Thessalonians church and how they responded to God's call are good motivation for you to learn from them and to apply them in your life as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus. Lord thank you for the good example that I learn from the Thessalonians on how I fulfill your call to me. Lord I commit myself to the principle of laboring and serving you in faith and love and in doing what you prepare for me to do; remembering and applying the good example of your servants who taught me the word of God, and showing gratefulness to you for their service unto me, and submitting myself to the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit. Lord gives me perseverance and protects me as I determined to stand firm in keeping and applying the very word of God. This all I ask and pray in Jesus name Amen.

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