



GRACE

COMMUNITY CHURCH

Congrats Grace Grads!

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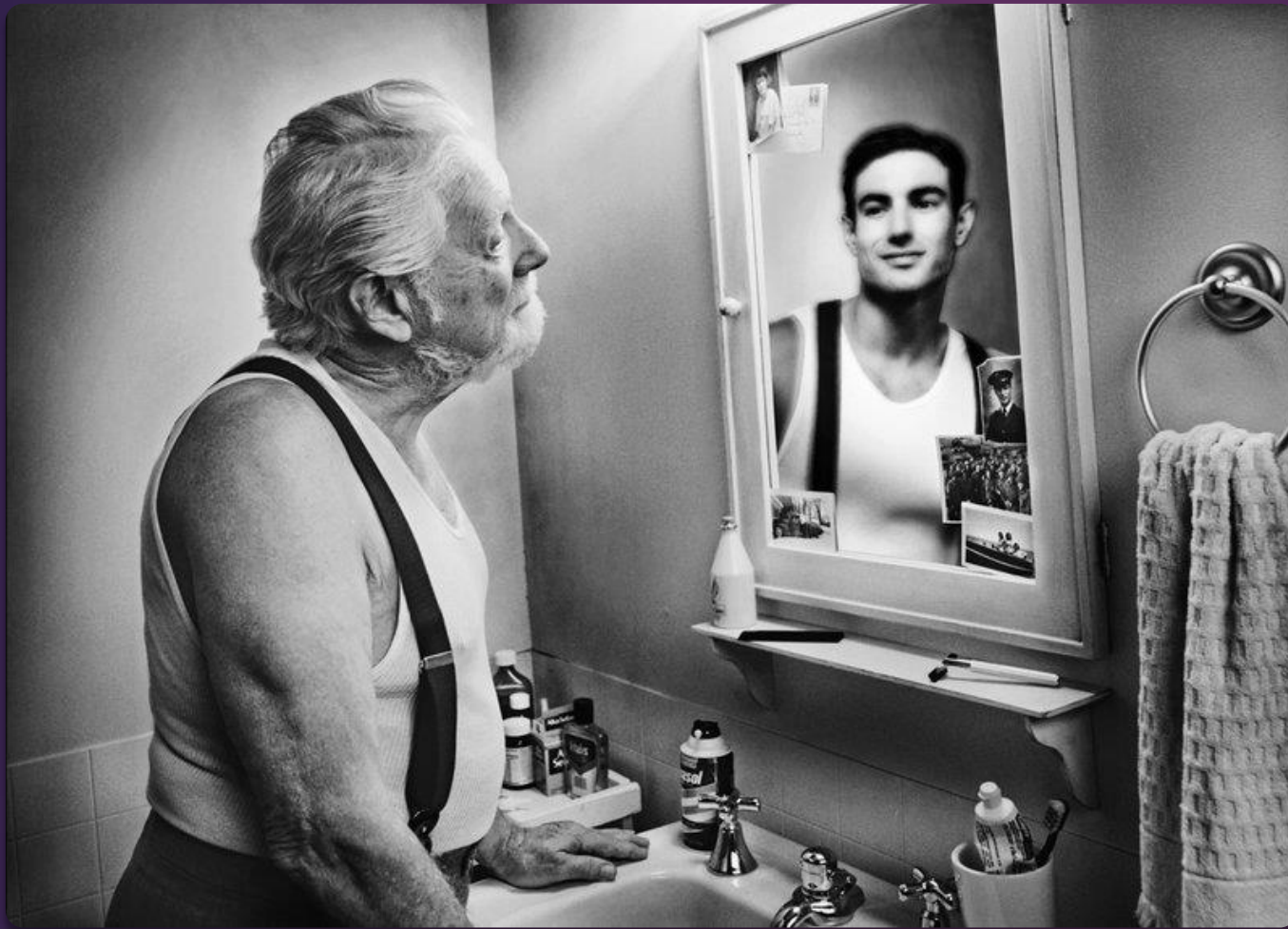


ENCOURAGEMENT 201



TRUE

Studies in 1 & 2 Thessalonians



**We are
who God
says
we are**

2 Thessalonians 3:1, NIV

¹ As for other matters, brothers and sisters, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you.

2 Thessalonians 3:2-3, NIV

² And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil people, for not everyone has faith. ³ But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.

2 Thessalonians 3:4-5, NIV

⁴ We have confidence in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do the things we command. ⁵ May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.

2 Thessalonians 3:1-15, NIV

An Encouragement Triad

- 1. Intercession**—today.
- 2. Industry**—next Sunday.
- 3. Intervention**—next Sunday.

Intercession: the message

Pray for the message to spread

- **A word picture**—a fast running message that wins the race.
- **Psalm 147:15** *He sends his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly.*
- **An Olympic running event.**

2 Thessalonians 3:1, NIV

... pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you.

Intercession: the message

Pray for the message to spread

- **A history of the Thessalonian church.**
 - ***Come over to Macedonia and help us!***
 - Acts 16-17 Philippi, then Thessalonica.
 - 1 Th 2:13 *you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God.*

Intercession: the message

Competing messages

- Materialism.
- Money and success.
- Education. Knowledge. Science.
- Family; the “right person” = happiness
- Sex, and plenty of it.
- Government will save us.

Intercession: the messengers

Pray for the messengers of the gospel

2 Thessalonians 3:2, NIV

² And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil people, for not everyone has faith.

Intercession: the messengers

Pray for the messengers of the gospel

- Paul knows he is in a supernatural conflict that expressed in human relationship. We wrestle not against people, but against spiritual forces in high places. Eph 6:12
- The prayers of believers Eph 6:19-20

2 Corinthians 1:8-11, NIV

⁸ We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself.

2 Corinthians 1:8-11, NIV

⁹ Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. ¹⁰ He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again.

2 Corinthians 1:8-11, NIV

On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, ¹¹ as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.

Franklin Graham

and a team of 240 medical staff risk their safety to “spew” love on New York without charge for care given to more than 300 NYC residents.





NYC Council Speaker **Corey Johnson**

NYC Council Press release May 1, 2020

“It is time for Samaritan’s Purse to leave New York City. This group, which is led by the **notoriously bigoted, hate-spewing** Franklin Graham, came at a time when our city couldn’t in good conscience turn away any offer of help. That time has passed. Their continued presence here is an affront to our values of inclusion, and is painful for all New Yorkers who care deeply about the LGBTQ community.”

<https://council.nyc.gov/press/2020/05/01/1951/>

Intercession: the messengers

- ▶ We must pray for each other to **adorn the gospel message with gospel behavior.**
- ▶ The message “God hates fags” has **nothing** to do with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Intercession: message believers

Pray for the maturity of gospel believers

We have confidence in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do the things we command. May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.

Intercession: message believers

Why pray if God has his plans in place?

- *God has not only ordained the **end**; God has ordained the **means** to that **end**.*
- God works all things to accomplish his will and he works through those who work.
- Our work include **our prayers**.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.

Thy Kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven

Intercession: message believers

Why pray about God's kingdom & will?

1. It is important that we agree with God what is **all-important**.
2. We are more apt to see the need for **that kingdom** and the evidences of **that kingdom** as we pray for **that kingdom**.

2 Thessalonians 3:4-5, NIV

⁵ May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.

Intercession: message believers

What does maturity look like?

1. Change comes from the inside out.
2. God's own **love** and Christ's own **perseverance** are developed in the heart of the believer feasting on the wonder of our God and Savior.

Ephesians 2:4-5, NIV

⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

Ephesians 3:14-19, NIV

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

Ephesians 3:14-19, NIV

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 5:1-2, NIV

Follow God's example, therefore, **as dearly loved children** and **walk in the way of love**, just **as Christ loved us** and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV

... fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

This inside out change requires a new birth.

Jesus said: “Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’”

“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

Intercession

- ▶ Pray for the competitive success of the gospel message. **May God's truth win!**
- ▶ Pray for the freedom and effectiveness of the gospel messengers. **Give opportunities!**
- ▶ Pray for the maturity and growth of the gospel believers. **Grow like Christ.**



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