

## A Pastor's Prayer, Part 2

### 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Nigel Unrau, Lead Pastor – February 12, 2023

#### 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

<sup>9</sup>For what thanks can we render to God for you in return for all the joy with which we rejoice before our God on your account, <sup>10</sup>as we night and day keep praying most earnestly that we may see your face, and may complete what is lacking in your faith? <sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father Himself and Jesus our Lord direct our way to you; <sup>12</sup>and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also *do* for you; <sup>13</sup>so that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

A pastor's prayer is for God's people to be continually growing.

#### 1 Thessalonians 3:10

as we night and day keep praying most earnestly that we may see your face, and may complete what is lacking in your faith?

##### A. In Christian maturity.

#### 1 Corinthians 13:11-13

<sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. <sup>12</sup>For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known. <sup>13</sup>But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.

The virtues of the Christian life are love and loyalty.

#### 1 Thessalonians 3:11-12

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father Himself and Jesus our Lord direct our way to you; <sup>12</sup>and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also *do* for you;

##### B. In Christ-like charity.

#### Ephesians 5:1-2

<sup>1</sup>Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; <sup>2</sup>and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

#### 1 John 4:19-21

<sup>19</sup>We love, because He first loved us. <sup>20</sup>If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. <sup>21</sup>And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

The love of Christ for us compels us to love those around us.

#### 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

<sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; <sup>15</sup>and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

1. Through service and sacrifice as imitators of Jesus.

#### John 13:34-35

<sup>34</sup>A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

#### 1 John 3:14-18

<sup>14</sup>We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death.

<sup>15</sup>Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. <sup>16</sup>We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. <sup>17</sup>But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? <sup>18</sup>Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

### **Luke 10:25-37**

<sup>25</sup> And a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>26</sup> And He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?" <sup>27</sup> And he answered, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." <sup>28</sup> And He said to him, "You have answered correctly; DO THIS AND YOU WILL LIVE." <sup>29</sup> But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" <sup>30</sup> Jesus replied and said, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went away leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> And by chance a priest was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> Likewise a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion, <sup>34</sup> and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on *them*; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> On the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return I will repay you.' <sup>36</sup> Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' hands?" <sup>37</sup> And he said, "The one who showed mercy toward him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same."

2. Through **steadfast adherence** to the **truth** of Jesus.

### **Leviticus 19:17-18**

<sup>17</sup> You shall not hate your fellow countryman in your heart; you may surely reprove your neighbor, but shall not incur sin because of him. <sup>18</sup> You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD.

### **Galatians 6:1**

Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; *each one* looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.

### **1 Thessalonians 3:13**

so that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

C. Into **complete security** and **sanctity**.

### **1 John 3:18-21**

<sup>18</sup> Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. <sup>19</sup> We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him <sup>20</sup> in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things.

<sup>21</sup> Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God;

### **1 John 3:2-3**

<sup>2</sup> Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. <sup>3</sup> And everyone who has this hope *fixed* on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

*"Where there is **holiness**, there is **assurance**."*

Warren Wiersbe

### **2 Peter 1:5-11**

<sup>5</sup> Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge, <sup>6</sup> and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness, <sup>7</sup> and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness, love. <sup>8</sup> For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> For he who lacks these *qualities* is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten *his* purification from his former sins. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; <sup>11</sup> for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.