

That the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you. 2 Thess. 1:12 (R.V.)

Will you, dear Christian soul, enter into a solemn compact with the Holy Spirit that you will live for this as your supreme purpose, namely, to glorify the name (i.e., the character) of the Lord Jesus? This is his supreme purpose and aim throughout the present age. He seeks the glory of Jesus with the same persistent patience as Jesus sought the glory of his Father, and longs for our fellowship and co-operation. Nothing gratifies the Holy Spirit more than to welcome into partnership those who love the Lord Jesus with a consuming passion, and are prepared to glorify Him, at whatever cost to themselves.

It has made a great difference to my life since I responded to the call of the Spirit, as though He said directly, as once through his servant, "Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his Name together." One has now a worthy object always in view, whether in speaking or keeping silence; in acting or suffering; in life or death--that the Lord Jesus may be magnified.

Does this seem too high an aim? Then ponder the gracious assurance that the Lord will fulfil every desire of goodness (ver. 11). He first instils the desire, and then realizes it; first suggests the outline plan, and then fills in the colours. Take your desires for goodness to Him, and trust Him, in all faithfulness, to realize and fulfil them. They are like the chalice which the child brings to the lake-side impure, indeed, but capable of being rinsed; and the father, taking it from his hand, plunges it into the pellucid waters, that cleanse and fill to the brim. Thank God for every desire of goodness! But be not content till that which you desire is in actual possession; for He who prompts the desire is well able to fulfil it.

叫我們主耶穌的名在你們身上得榮耀。 帖後一12

親愛的基督徒，你是否願意與聖靈立下莊嚴的約定，一生以此作為你生命的最高目標，就是榮耀主耶穌的名？（名就是品格）。這是聖靈在今世的最高目標。正如耶穌曾經以堅韌不拔的耐心尋求天父的榮耀，聖靈也同樣地尋求耶穌的榮耀，並渴望我們與祂相交並合作。聖靈最喜悅迎接那以熱情愛主耶穌，並且準備好不計任何代價榮耀主的人作祂的夥伴。

自從我回應了聖靈的呼召以來，我的生命發生了重大的改變。彷彿祂直接說，正如祂曾藉祂的僕人說：「你們和我當稱耶和華為大，一同高舉祂的名。（詩卅四3）」於是我看見一個值得追求的目標，無論是開口講論或靜默；無論是作工或受苦；無論是生或死 — 總叫主耶穌被顯大（腓一20）。

這個目標看起來太高嗎？那麼，請仔細思想這仁慈的保證，主必成就你們對良善的每一個渴慕（11節）。祂先將這渴慕灌輸到我們裡面的，然後祂來實現；祂首先提示輪廓，再塗上各種顏色。把你對良善的渴慕帶到祂面前，相信祂全然信實地實現並完成你所渴慕的。就像一個孩童拿著一個很髒、但可以清洗乾淨的高腳杯，來到湖邊；他的父親就把杯從孩子手中接過來，浸到清澈的湖水中，洗淨了，並且盛滿。你要為著每一個對良善的渴慕感謝神！但是，不要滿足，直等到你的渴慕變成實在擁有；因為祂促使我們渴慕，祂也全然有能力來實現這渴慕。

God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation. 2 Thess. 2: 13

From the beginning! Who shall compute the contents of the vast unknown abyss, which is comprehended in that phrase? The beginning of creation was preceded by the anticipation of Redemption, and the love of God to all who were one with Christ.

GOD'S AIM AND PURPOSE. SALVATION. Not simply our deliverance from the penalty, but from the power of all besetting sin; so that we may be delivered from the fear of our enemies, and serve Him in holiness and righteousness all our days. This He is prepared to give to us; but we must claim it by faith.

GOD'S CHOICE. Whom He did foreknow He also did predestinate. From all eternity He saw those who would be attracted to Jesus by a divine affinity, and these were included in his gift to the Son. "Thine they were, and Thou gavest them Me, and they have kept thy word." We must not presume on the eternal choice; but we may be very grateful that the tendencies emanating from the fall are met, in mid-flow, by the grace and choice of the Almighty.

GOD'S METHOD. THROUGH SANCTIFICATION OF THE SPIRIT. The Holy Ghost sets us apart from sin, and consecrates us to God. "Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price. "Our sanctification is not the property of our soul, but its possession of the Holy One; not an attribute, but a Person. And belief of the truth. Let the Word of God dwell in you richly. Hide it in your heart, that you may be kept from sin. We are sanctified by the truth in so far as we expose our hearts to its entrance and rule. We are cleansed by the washing of water through the Word.

他從起初揀選了你們，叫你們 ... 得救。 帖後二13

從起初！這個詞所包含廣大未知的深淵，其中的內容有誰計算呢？救贖的期盼和神的愛給一切與基督聯合的人，是在創造開始之前。

神的目標：救恩。這救恩不只拯救我們脫離刑罰，更拯救我們脫離一切纏磨人之罪的權勢，好叫我們脫離對仇敵的恐懼，並且終生用聖潔和公義事奉祂。祂已經預備好要將這救恩賜給我們；但我們必須藉著信心支取。

神的揀選：祂預知的人，祂也預定(羅八29)。從永遠，祂已看見那因著神聖的吸引力來到耶穌面前的人，這些人也包含在祂給聖子的禮物之中。「他們本是你的，你將他們賜給我，他們也遵守了你的道。(約十七6)」我們絕不該濫用永遠的揀選；然而我們可以心存感激，因那來自墮落的趨勢，在中途就被全能者的恩典與揀選對付了。

神的方法：藉著聖靈使人成聖。聖靈使我們遠離罪，分別為聖歸神。「豈不知你們的身子就是聖靈的殿麼？這聖靈是從神而來，住在你們裡頭的；並且你們不是自己的人，因為你們是重價買來的。(林前六19-20)」我們的成聖，並不是我們靈魂的特質，而是我們擁有那聖者；不是一個屬性，而是一位神(聖靈)。並且相信真理。讓神的道豐豐富富地住在你裡面，將神的道藏在你心中，好使你蒙保守遠離罪。當我們開啟我們的心，邀請真理進來管理，真理就使我們成聖(約十七17)。我們是藉著道被水洗淨的(弗五26)。

The Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ. 2 Thess. 3: 5.

"Direct" might be rendered "make straight." It is used of the apostle's own coming to these beloved converts in 1 Thess. 3: 11. It is as though he asked that their hearts might travel easily and swiftly along the road which leads into the love of God, and the patience which untiring, waits for Christ.

THE LOVE OF GOD. We urgently need, for many reasons, to be brought into the love of God. Only so can our selfishness be conquered and expelled; only so can we become like God in our daily life and conversation; only this is the complete evidence to the world that our holy religion is true; only thus shall we have power to influence the lost and fallen; only so can we know God, "for he that loveth not, knoweth not God." But how can we learn to love? God alone can teach us and guide our way into this sacred art. His Holy Spirit must fill our hearts with his love; we must ever claim and receive it as our power for daily self-sacrifice, and we must be prepared to take every opportunity of sharing the love of God in unselfishness and thoughtfulness for those with whom we come in contact.

THE PATIENCE OF CHRIST. Thus the original might be rendered; and the beloved disciple confesses himself a brother and companion in the patience of Jesus Christ (Rev. 1 : 9). We all know something of this. Longing for answers to prayers that are still delayed; yearning for the realization of hopes and ideals of which God's Spirit has spoken to us; waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God. May we be led into something of that sublime faith and patience with which Jesus sits, until all things are put under Him, and He is satisfied.

願主引導你們的心，叫你們進入神的愛並進入基督的忍耐。 帖後三5(直譯)

這裡的「引導」可譯作「修直」。在帖撒羅尼迦前書三章11節，這個詞被用來說到修直使徒自己到這些親愛信徒那裡的道路。在帖撒羅尼迦後書三章5節這裡，他彷彿是要求他們的心要沿著這條道路輕省、快捷地前進，進入神的愛，和那等候基督不倦怠的耐心。

神的愛。為著許多的原因，我們迫切需要被帶進神的愛中。惟有如此，我們的自私才能被征服並驅逐；惟有如此，我們才能在每日的生活和言談中變得像神；惟有如此，我們才能向世人完全證明我們神聖的信仰是真的；惟有如此，我們才有能力影響失喪墮落的人；惟有如此，我們才能認識神，因為「沒有愛心的，就不認識神。(約壹四8)」但是我們如何才能學習去愛呢？只有神能教導我們，引導我們進入這神聖的技術。祂的聖靈必須用祂的愛充滿我們的心；我們必須不斷支取，並領受神的愛作為我們的力量，使我們每天犧牲自己；我們必須預備好抓住每一個機會，與所接觸的人無私並親切地分享神的愛。

基督的忍耐。這樣，那原有的力量才被表明出來；主所愛的那門徒承認自己是一個弟兄，在耶穌基督的忍耐裡一同有分(啟一9)。我們都對這忍耐稍微認識。渴望那還被耽延的禱告蒙應允；渴求神的靈對我們說過的盼望與理想得著實現；等候神的眾子顯出來(羅八19)。願我們蒙引導稍微進入這崇高的信心與忍耐，耶穌藉這忍耐坐著直到萬有都服在祂的腳下，祂才得滿足。(詩一一〇1, 弗一20-22)。