

Wednesday in the Word
Digging Deeper
September 1, 2021
2 Thessalonians 3:1-5
God's Word Running Free

In today's passage Paul asks prayer of the Thessalonians 'that the Word of the Lord may have free course'. The results will hinge on the willing participation of Paul and his companions and on their delivery from unreasonable and wicked men. These preconditions may well be the greatest influencers of the freedom of the gospel. The greatest Power behind such freedom is the movement of the Holy Spirit. John 3:5-8. As we search the Scriptures we find evidence of some very great events where God depended on man's heart and prayer life. One solitary man, in rebellion to God, somehow hesitated the Spirit of the Lord. Let's thank God that Jonah repented of his disobedience (Jonah 2:1-10) and could it also be that he had to get his heart right so God could use him. Notice that even though Jonah still had issues (4:8-10) the Lord still got his message through. Jonah's repentance somehow released the Power of Christ which led to perhaps the greatest act of salvation ever recorded. Jonah 3:4-10, 4:11. We ought to check our own attitudes as we pray so as not to quench the Spirit. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19. Remember the movement of the Spirit in the book of Acts 2:1-5, and the great salvation that followed, 38-41. Notice the incredible intervention of God in Acts 4:1-4 even despite the opposition of unreasonable and wicked men. God is not restrained by man but somehow in His grace He desires and uses our partnership. 1 Corinthians 3:7-9. Let's not forget the 144 thousand of Revelation 7:4, those sealed by God in the most troubling of times. Finally, move ahead to verses 9-17 of the same chapter. The Word of God now running free again in the midst of great tribulation saves the souls of an innumerable mass. Here again, the willing witness of the faithful and the Spirit's delivery from the unreasonable and the wicked has allowed the Lord's Word to have 'free course'. Can you think of more examples? When His Word is set free, God is mighty unto salvation. Are these only biblical events?

Historians and theologians identify three, or sometimes four, waves of fantastic revival between the early 18th century and the late 20th century. Each of these "Great Awakenings" was characterized by widespread mass salvations. The Bible refers to such events, Acts 2:16-18, Matthew 24:14, but more so of a great falling away. 1 Timothy 4:1, 2 Thessalonians 2:3, Matthew 24:24, 2 Peter 3:3-4. Of the great salvations of so many, history records the 1904-1905 Welsh Revival, the 1906 Azusa Street Revival, the 1930s Balokole Revival, the 1970s Jesus people movement (Bringing About The Beloved Spirit Birth of this writer!), The 1971 Barrio Revival and harkening back to 1909, the Great Chile Revival which spread in the Americas, Africa, and Asia among Protestants and Catholics! Many great preachers today are still reaching mass audiences reminiscent of the late Billy Graham. All of this because the Word of the Lord runs free as He chooses it to do. A dividing line is being placed among mankind and many understand this to be the last frantic surge of God's plan. Joel 3:14.

A reread of today's 5 verses will assure us the Lord Himself is provident over all this, both in the macro world of human history and the micro world of each individual and greatly loved creation of God who in humility opens his heart to God's Word to know Him better. May He direct your hearts and bless you with the patience to wait for His Revealing. 1 Corinthians 2:9-13, 2 Thessalonians 1:7. It will be worth the wait! Meanwhile get out there!

