SPEAK LISTENING

Part 1 A Time for Reflection, Prayer, and Thanksgiving

This letter is from Paul, Silas, and Timothy. We are writing to the church in Thessalonica, to you who belong to God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. May God give you grace and peace.

We always thank God for all of you and pray for you constantly.

As we pray to our God and Father about you, we think of your faithful work, your loving deeds, and the enduring hope you have because of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, dear brothers and sisters, that God loves you and has chosen you to be his own people.

For when we brought you the Good News, it was not only with words but also with power, for the Holy Spirit gave you full assurance that what we said was true.

1 Thessalonians 1:5b

And you know of our concern for you from the way we lived when we were with you.

So you received the message with joy from the Holy Spirit in spite of the severe suffering it brought you. In this way, you imitated both us and the Lord.

As a result, you have become an example to all the believers in Greece—throughout both Macedonia and Achaia.

And now the word of the Lord is ringing out from you to people everywhere, even beyond Macedonia and Achaia, for wherever we go we find people telling us about your faith in God.

We don't need to tell them about it, for they keep talking about the wonderful welcome you gave us and how you turned away from idols to serve the living and true God.

And they speak of how you are looking forward to the coming of God's Son from heaven—Jesus, whom God raised from the dead. He is the one who has rescued us from the terrors of the coming judgment.

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By the end of 2023 we will become a local church whose main power and first level of unity is derived from and through prayer.

This year we will describe and utilize prayer in a 3-pronged manner:

- Quality time
- Communication
- Investment in Relationship

We will find a way to pray for one another by name and according to situations, circumstances, and life events without first having to be asked to do so.

Our discipleship focus will be dedicated to helping each of us pray more effectively, pray more expectantly, pray more often, and to constantly seek out opportunities to pray together.

The focus of our prayers will not be about our comfort, our preferences, or our will; but they will be for God to use us and to send us out in order to help reconcile His children back to Him.

Our desire and goal to be a praying church will be owned and exemplified by everyone who comes and stays to be a part of the Living Hope Fellowship family.

By the end of 2023, 80% of our church will be doing 100% of the work when it comes to praying for each other, for the lost, and for the Lord to use us for His honor, glory, and praise.

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