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| |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | By **Martha Rodman** on December 5, 2024 |   *11 So we keep on praying for you, asking our God to enable you to live a life worthy of his call. May he give you the power to accomplish all the good things your faith prompts you to do*. 2 Thessalonians 1:11. NLT.  I came across this verse when I was feeling wimpy and weak. Our Senior Life ministry had just finished a very successful breakfast for 83 seniors. My vision for meeting more needs keeps on enlarging, but I wasn't feeling very strong in my body. My thoughts were a jumble between what we can do, and, oh Lord, how can we do it? Between faith and unbelief! Have you ever been there? Maybe it's not with a ministry, but with your marriage? Your parenting skills? Your job or schooling?  Paul's prayer for them was that He would enable them to accomplish all the good things their faith prompted them to do! It is the same for me and for you. I settled it in my heart, we will accomplish all the good things God has prompted us to do by His power and purpose. I felt my insecurity fading away as faith arose. Of course we can do it, by His strength and by His timing.  I know some folks are facing impossible challenges right now. Dealing with difficult marriage partners or struggling children can be overwhelming. I urge you to take the time right now to pray this prayer for yourself and your situation? Remember, He is able to do above and beyond all we can ask or think (Ephesians 3:20). Today is the day to strengthen your faith in Him. Do not let the fear of your own inadequacy cause you to waver or back off from His plans for your life. The Holy Spirit understands you, your personality, your gifting and calling. Sometimes, we quit too soon. We give up because we are focused on ourselves, not Him and His power and ability. Yes, it may take time to discover the way through. You may need to apply endurance, perseverance and tenacity. But the reward will be worth it all. If you find yourself at a decision point and struggle to decide what to do, remember this. "Charity never fails." Do the most loving thing you can!  The church at Thessalonica endured hardships and persecutions. Life was difficult for them. Choosing to walk in faith during hard times is the best thing to do, instead of quitting. When I think I have done all I can do, I remember the verse that says: 13 Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. 14 Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God’s righteousness. Ephesians 6:13-14. NLT. My friends, you can do it. Everything He has called you to do. You can do it. His Kingdom needs you to do it. What an impact on the surrounding unbelievers, if every believer walked in their gifts and callings. The believers in Thessalonica affected their world. Their faith flourished and they grew in love with each other. Come on, release your faith! We can do it!  Several years ago, our pastors lived in a small town on a small island. They reached out and gave three Christmas food bags to people in need. Last year our church gave out 800 Christmas food bags, and this year our goal is 1,000. Quite a leap. Sometimes our small endeavors are the beginning of bigger endeavors. Do not let the size of the opportunity stop you from fulfilling those good thoughts He has given you.  Father, I thank you for helping us accomplish those good thoughts and ideas that you have given us. I thank you we do not have to do them on our own, no matter how hard the situation we find ourselves in. You are more than able to give us wisdom, solutions and miracles, In Jesus' Name, amen. |