

DAILY READINGS

Sunday	1 Thessalonians 2:13-20
Monday	2 Corinthians 4:1-5:10; Psalm 119:161-176; Proverbs 27:8-10
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 5:11-6:13; Psalm 120; Proverbs 27:11-13
Wednesday	2 Corinthians 6:14-7:16; Psalm 121; Proverbs 27:14-16
Thursday	2 Corinthians 8:1-9:15; Psalm 122; Proverbs 27:17-19
Friday	2 Corinthians 10:1-18; Psalm 123; Proverbs 27:20-23
Saturday	2 Corinthians 11:1-33; Psalm 124; Proverbs 27:24-27

DEVOTIONAL: READ 1 THESSALONIANS 2:13-20

Paul's journey was not always smooth and successful. Paul shared with the Thessalonians the opposition he experienced from the Jews and warned the Thessalonians of the opposition they may face as well. However, instead of feeling defeated by these attacks, Paul attributed them to Satan's work and encouraged his fellow believers to remember the good news that Jesus has conquered all sin through the cross; therefore Satan had no power over them.

When the Thessalonians heard the gospel, they believed that it was the Word of God and not of man. Through their belief in the gospel, the Holy Spirit began to dwell in them, giving them the power to live by the Word of God and take part in Jesus' victory over evil.

We may not ever go through the same level of persecution as Paul and his fellow believers did, but we will certainly face spiritual attack and opposition. Sometimes the spiritual battles may be clear, but other times we don't even realize the spiritual opposition that may be at work.

In all situations, we must remember that we have a God who is supreme and sovereign over all! He can conquer, and has conquered, all evil through Jesus' crucifixion on the cross. Those who believe in the gospel have the power of the Holy Spirit and must stand firm in His truth, knowing that our God is greater than all. Through the Holy Spirit, prayer, and God's Word, we can see the victory that Jesus has already won on our behalf!

REFLECTION

How have you seen opposition to the gospel in your own life?

Is there a Bible verse or passage that has been your comfort or strength in times of spiritual attack?

How can you encourage those around you to stand firm in the midst of trials in this life? Who may need that encouragement today?

DISCUSSION

What is something that I can be praying for you this fall?

PRAYER

Jesus, You stood against evil. You spoke truth to unjust authority and corrupt power. You turned over tables of greed and idolatry. You cast out demons. You knew who You were dealing with.

Teach me to see and name my enemies—those spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Give me eyes to see beneath the surface and to discern spirits. Give me courage to call out the sin that is at the root of whatever symptom I am encountering. Search me and see if there be any opposing way to Your gospel in me, and lead me in the way of life.

Thank You for the victory I have in You! In the end, no opponent will stand against Your everlasting love. “For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38-39). Amen.