

**You Can Pray the Bible**  
**International Bible Lesson**  
**2 Thessalonians 2:1-4, 8-17**  
**Sunday, April 28, 2013**  
**L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.**

*“Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work” (2 Thessalonians 2:16, 17—KJV).*

*“May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and in his grace gave us unfailing courage and a firm hope, encourage you and strengthen you to always do and say what is good” (2 Thessalonians 2:16, 17—GNB).*

*“Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word” (2 Thessalonians 2:16, 17—NRSV).*

Jesus gave us an example and taught us how to pray when He gave His first disciples the Lord’s Prayer (see Matthew 6:9-13). When Paul wrote his letters, he often included prayers for the Christians to whom he wrote. Since some of Paul’s letters were preserved in the Bible, Christians can also pray his prayers and apply his prayers in praying for others and themselves. Paul wrote that Christians should “pray without ceasing,” and especially when we do not know how to or what to pray, we can pray the prayers that the Holy Spirit guided Paul to pray (1 Thessalonians 5:17). We can ask the Holy Spirit to help us pray any prayer in the Bible, and even help us modify the prayer for our situation. For example, we might modify this verse and pray, “Lord Jesus, help believers everywhere (including me), live worthy of your call to follow you, and fulfill by your power every good resolve and work of faith” (see 2 Thessalonians 1:11). We might pray some of Paul’s prayers for others and ourselves without much change; such as, “May the Lord direct your hearts (and mine) to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ. Now may the Lord of peace himself give you (and me) peace at all times in all ways. The Lord be with all of you (and me)” (2 Thessalonians 3:5, 16). Now, read again the verses above for this Bible Lesson and pray them for all believers and for yourself.

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## **Thinking Further**

1. In this Bible lesson, what does Paul say must happen before Jesus Christ returns?
2. What did Paul say would eventually happen to the lawless one?
3. What are some tools that Satan will use to help the lawless one deceive people?
4. Who does Paul say will be deceived by Satan and the lawless one?
5. How do believers in Jesus Christ differ from those who believe what is false?