

1 Thessalonians 5:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

Analysis

Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it—pistos ho kalōn hymas, hos kai poiēsei (πιστὸς ὁ καλῶν ὑμᾶς, ὃς καὶ ποιήσει, 'faithful is the one calling you, who also will do it'). Pistos (πιστός, 'faithful') describes God's trustworthy character—He keeps promises, completes what He begins. Ho kalōn hymas (ὁ καλῶν ὑμᾶς, 'the one calling you,' present participle)—God's calling isn't merely past event but continuing reality. Hos kai poiēsei (ὃς καὶ ποιήσει, 'who also will do it')—God will complete the sanctification He began.

This verse provides assurance: sanctification (v. 23) isn't achieved through human effort alone but through God's faithful work. He who called us to salvation will sanctify us completely. This echoes Philippians 1:6: 'He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.' Perseverance doesn't depend ultimately on human faithfulness (which wavers) but divine faithfulness (which never fails). God's calling guarantees completion—not because we're capable but because He's faithful. This doesn't excuse human responsibility (vv. 14-22) but grounds it in divine enabling. We pursue holiness confident that God empowers and completes what He commands.

Historical Context

Paul's assurance of divine faithfulness completing sanctification comforted persecuted Thessalonians tempted toward discouragement. Would persecution prevent sanctification? Would martyrdom interrupt God's work? Paul answers: God who called you will complete His work, whether through long life of gradual

sanctification or immediate glorification at death/rapture. This confidence sustained early Christians facing martyrdom—death couldn't thwart God's purposes. Throughout church history, believers facing impossible circumstances (persecution, slavery, poverty, illness) have clung to God's faithfulness: He who called us will complete His work, regardless of circumstances.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does God's faithfulness ('faithful is he that calleth you') provide assurance when your own faithfulness wavers?
2. What does 'who also will do it' teach about the relationship between God's sovereign work and your responsible effort in sanctification?
3. How does confidence in God's completing what He began affect your perseverance through trials threatening your sanctification?

Interlinear Text

πιστὸς	ό	καλῶν	ὑμᾶς	ὅς	καὶ	ποιήσει
Faithful	G3588	is he that calleth	you	who	also	will do
G4103		G2564	G5209	G3739	G2532	G4160

Additional Cross-References

2 Thessalonians 3:3 (Faith): But the Lord is faithful, who shall establish you, and keep you from evil.

1 Corinthians 1:9 (Faith): God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Numbers 23:19 (Parallel theme): God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

1 Peter 5:10 (Parallel theme): But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

Deuteronomy 7:9 (Faith): Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;

2 Timothy 2:13 (Faith): If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

Isaiah 25:1 (Faith): O LORD, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth.

Lamentations 3:23 (Faith): They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

John 3:33 (Parallel theme): He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true.

2 Peter 1:3 (Parallel theme): According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: