

- 1) Summer Series → Biblical Prayers—God's **Priorities** In Our Praying == Lord's Prayer—Paul's
- 2) **Skipped This One** → Once Again → Instructive To Listen To Paul Praying For This Church

First, Spiritual Formation

- 1) Number of Years Ago → Prominent LG Churches Realized == Programs → Not **Developing** Disciples
 - a) What Disciple? → Bible Word Those **Who** Follow **Jesus Christ** → Listen To & Follow His Example
 - b) So Disciple == One Who Learns & Seeks To Obey **His Teaching** == Become **More & More** Like Him
 - c) So To Not **Learn** What Jesus Taught → Not **Seek** To Live It—Obey == Not **Follow** Jesus
- 2) Problem Church Often **Producing People** Who Know A Lot → Very Active In Church == BUT
 - a) Faith Not **Deeply** Shaping **Character**—Not **Changing** Them == Not **Impacting** Giving—Time—Marriages
 - b) Not **Making** Them Patient—Kind—Sacrificial—Passionate—Giving Enduring **Power** In Storms of Life
 - c) Not Helping Them **Seek 1st Kingdom of God** → **To Surrender Lives** To Xp == **Really Live** For Him
- 3) So Started To Ask **Question** → How Move From **Transfer** of Information → **To Spiritual Transformation**
 - a) Move From **Getting People To Do Things** → **Seeing People Changed** Into Something == **Image of Xp**
- 4) **Spiritual Formation** → Shaping of **Soul**—Inner Person == **To Be Different** == **More Like Christ**
 - a) Rom. 8:29—“Those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son”
 - b) Rom. 12:2—“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the **renewal of your mind**”
- 5) Gal. 4:19—“My little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!”
 - a) This Inner **Transformation** → Inner—Soul **Conformity** To Image of Son == **Goal of Spiritual Life**
 - b) **Inner Self** → Thoughts—Attitudes—Desires—Affections—Decisions == **More Like Jesus**
- 6) Sometimes == As Churches—As Individual Christians == Lose Sight == This God's Purpose & Work
 - a) End Up More **Conformed** to World & Its Ways → **Than To God & His** → **IOW Not Following Jesus**

Second, Conformed To His Image

- 1) But This Exactly What Paul Prays For == For God **To Make His Church** == **More Like Jesus**
- 2) Isn't That What Described in His Prayer? == Who Is Like This **Except Jesus Christ** == **Who Can**
- 3) **(9) Filled W/ Knowledge** of God's Will == **Transformed By Renewing Of Minds** == **What Fills Heads**
 - a) **Minds & Hearts Full** == **Not W/ What We Want** → But W/ What God Wants → Be What God Wants
 - b) How Can Heads & Hearts Be Filled W/ Knowledge of His Will == **If Not Learning What** He Taught
- 4) **(9) Spiritual Wisdom & Understanding** → **Not Superficial Churchy Answer To Things** →
 - a) **Wisdom & Understanding** That Come From God's Spirit → **Know His Will In Every Situation & Relat**
 - b) IOW == **Clear Understanding** of **What God Really Wants** == **By Word & Spirit** == **Know His Will**
- 5) **(10) So That** == **Live The Lives Meant To Live** → Lives **Worthy of God Who Made Us** → **Saves Us**
 - a) **1 Pet. 1:15**—"As he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct" → **IOW Be Like Him**
 - b) To Live Worthy Before The Holy God == Live Holy Lives == **Life Like Jesus Lived**
- 6) **(10) Fully Pleasing To Him** → **Can You Imagine** == When God Looks At Your Life == **Pleased!**
 - a) **Can You Imagine** == **Making This Goal of Your Life** → **Every Day** == **Please The God Who Made You**
- 7) **(11) Bearing Fruit In Every Good Work** → **Doing Right Thing In Every Situation** → **Every Relationship**
 - a) **Every Area of Service** → **Fruits of Rtness—Godly Life—of Spirit** →
- 8) **Increasing In Knowledge of God** == **Relational Knowing—Jesus Taught Us To Pray** == Our Father
 - a) **Do See** == **How As Walk W/ Him** → **Learn From Him** → Seek to **Obey Him** == **Get To Know Him**
- 9) **(11) Then Paul Prays** == **You & I** == **Clothed In Power** == Paul Often Prays For Strength & Power
 - a) So Often == Know **What Need** → Know **What Right** == **What Lack** == **Strength To Do It**
 - b) **Stacks 3 Words** == **Strengthened W/ All Power** → **Glorious Might** → **Strengthen** == **Make Strong**
 - c) **Not Little Power** == **All Power** → **Not Any Power** == **According To His Glorious Might**
- 10) Why Do **We Need All This Power?** == **To Raise Dead?** → **Cast Mountains Into Sea?**
 - a) **Endurance—Patience—& Joy** == **These Gifts** == **Mighty Works of God**
 - b) **Ability To Endure W/ Patience** → Are you **Tired—Discouraged—End Your Strength—Empty—Hurting?**

- c) God **Make Us Strong** == **Helps Us Stand & Not Fall** → **Keep On & Not Quit** → **To Endure**
- d) Prays For Glorious Power Not Only Endure == Patience & Joy! == **That** == Divine Act!
- 11) Do You **Know How Hard Enduring Patience & Joy** Is? == Sickness—Conflict—Disappointment—Shame
- a) Our Savior Demonstrated Power of Godly Life → In Own **Suffering** == Patience & Joy
- b) In Center of Christlike Character == **Patient Endurance W/Joy** == Mighty Work of God !!
- 12) Paul Prays For Church → You & I == Have Life & Power of Xp Formed In Us == **Hearts** == Transformed

Third, Jesus the Image-Bearer

- 1) First → **Need To Admit** == **Lives Need To Be Changed** == **I Am Not Person** Described Here
- a) Second == Need To Want To Be This Person == Person Who From Inside-Out == Pleasing To God
- 2) Look At **(15)** == Tells Us == Jesus Image of == Invisible God → The Person Fully Pleasing To God
- a) Bible Tells Us Every Human Being Created In God's Image == **Also Says** == Broken & Lost Bec/ of Sin
- b) Not Who Created To Be → Not The Person Described In This Prayer
- c) Hearts & Minds Not Full of Desire To Know & Do His Will → Live For Selves == Not Him
- d) **Broken Image Results In Broken Relat/** == Become Alienated From God == Need To Be Made Rt
- 3) This Where Jesus Comes In == Image of God → Man—Human As Meant To Be == **Perfect Person**
- a) Jesus == **Everything This Passage Describes** == Lived Life We Are Meant To Live == But Don't
- b) Died On Cross To Bear Penalty For Our Failure == **To Walk In Manner Worthy** of The Lord
- c) **Jesus Image Able To Save Us From Crushing Consequences** of Not Being Who Supposed To Be
- d) John 20:31—"These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." → If You Will Put Faith & Trust In Jesus == Life
- e) Believe What Jesus Did → Did For You → Died For You → Paid Your Debt == **Reconciled To God**
- 4) **Jesus Lived & Died** → So That Life Paul Praying For → Could Be Our Life == Pray—Grow—& Change
- a) So Can Grow To Know God Better → To Know & Love His Will == Walk Worthy → Please Him

b) Phil. 3:12-14—“Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own...I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” → Its An **Upward Call** == **More Like Jesus** → To **Press On To Goal**

Finally, Praying For Inner Change

- 1) 1st Thing == Have You Put Your Faith & Trust in Jesus As Son of God == As Image of God == Savior?
 - a) If Not, Why Not? → Jesus Offers To Make You Right W/ God → Now & Forever == **Trust** In Him
- 2) 2nd Thing == Aim Your Life At This Goal == **Upward Call** In Xp == Make It **Direction** For Your Life
 - a) **What** Direction Is Your Life Pointed? → **Where** Are You Headed? → **What** Do You Want?
 - b) If Wanted To Go To NJ → Aim My Car In That Direction == Not Quick Trip
 - c) But If Aim That Way → Start Driving In That Direction == Little By Little == Get Closer
 - d) **What** Direction Is Your Life Pointed? → Where Are You Headed? → What Do You Want?
 - e) Understand == Not **Deliberately** Aim Your Life → Is Aim Your Life In wrong Direction
 - f) Must Choose This Direction → Is This What You Want? == Will You Make It Your Goal?
 - g) Packer—“Holiness, which means being near God, like God, given to God, and pleasing God, is something believers want more than anything else in this world.” == What Means To Follow Jesus
- 3) 3rd Thing == Get In Car W/ Others Heading In Same Direction → Church ==
 - a) Sit Under **Teaching** of God’s Word → Learn **What** Jesus Taught → **What** Means To Obey Him
- 4) Finally == Start Praying Like Paul → Ask For What You Want == Often Don’t **Have** == Bec/ Don’t Ask
 - a) Prayer == Confession == Can’t Do It Selves == Never Be This Person **Unless** God Changes Me
 - b) Prayer Is Talking to God → Puts You In **Presence** of The One **Who** Able To Change You
 - c) **Spiritual Formation** == Life-Long Journey → Inner Transformation == Inner Change
- 5) Prayer Takes You Inward & Upward → Sets You on Path → **Directs** Hearts & Minds In **Rt Direction**