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Look at Others in Light of What God is Making of Them

Today's Scripture: **1 Thess 1:2-10.**

“Contrary to the practice of most contemporary believers, who think of prayer almost exclusively as a means to make known one’s needs to God, Paul uses prayer primarily as a means to express his gratitude to God” **Jeffrey A.D. Weimar** 1-2 Thessalonians p.83

1. Gratitude Because God is Making Them Like Christ

(Growth)

Make **every effort** to supplement your faith with virtue. **2Peter 1:5**

Faith: The constant activity of the heart where I DONT depend on my self but instead actively & consciously depend on God for everything.

Love: The constant activity of the heart where I live “away from myself” for the good of others, to build them up.

Hope: The constant activity of the heart where my expectation of the best good is what God has promised me, not what the world offers me.

I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord

by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. **Philippians 1:12-14**

2. Gratitude Because God Connected Them To Christ (supernatural conversion)

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them to me. **John 6:44**

Anyone who belongs to God listens gladly to the words of God. But you don't listen because you don't belong to God. **John 8:47**

Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. **Ephesians 1:4-5 NLT**

And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers. **1Thessalonians 2:13**

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