

**1) Thank God for calling me deeper. (v. 15-16)**

What percentage of your prayers are thanksgiving?

Paul is thankful to God for people who are deeply rooted in their faith and deeply invested in people. Are you growing deeper in your faith? Are you deeply invested in people?

Have you taken the time to thank God for taking you deeper in your faith?

List the names of people you have seen grow deeper in their faith recently. Take time to thank God for them.

List the names of saints you deeply love. Take time to thank God for them. Is it hard for you to love all (each and every one) of the saints? Take time to thank God for those who are hard to love, too.

**Deeply thankful people overcome temptations to...**

- *Be self-focused.*
- *Doubt God when life is hard.*
- *Feel entitled to more.*

Are you deeply thankful?

**2) Ask God to know Him better. (v.17-20)**

How well do you know God? How well could you describe Him if you were introducing Him to a stranger. Do you desire to know Him better?

**The better I know Him...**

- *The more hope I will have.*

Hope is the confident expectation of a glorious future guaranteed by God's faithfulness. When you think about the future, do you feel hopeless, despair, or anxiety? Are you tempted to put your hope in anything other than Christ?

- *The more glory God will receive.*

Do you ever think of yourself as God's glorious inheritance? How much glory are you displaying to those around you?

- *The more strength I will receive.*

Are you tired, weak, or exhausted? Do you need to access more of the greatness of His power?

**3) Praise God for lifting Jesus higher. (v.21-23)**

- *I will lift Christ higher than any rival.*

Which did you think about and talk about more last week? The election, the Cubs, or Christ?

List as many rulers, authorities, and powers as you can. Are you tempted to look to any of these as a savior? Are you tempted to fear any of these as a threat?

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- I will lift Christ higher than any name.

Discuss this statement: "The president is not our savior."

- I will lift Christ higher than any body.

Discuss this statement: "America is not the hope of the world."

How important is church to Christ? How important is church to you?

Has Christ filled all the emptiness in you?

**Additional Scripture**

- Psalm 8:6
- Acts 4:12
- Philippians 1:8-11
- Philippians 2: 9-11
- 1Cor. 1:19-31