



Not with Human Wisdom and Power

Dear brothers and sisters, when I first came to you I didn't use lofty words and brilliant ideas to tell you God's message. For I decided to concentrate only on Jesus Christ and his death on the cross.... I did this so that you might trust the power of God rather than human wisdom.

1 Corinthians 2:1-2, 5 (NLT)

Prayer Focus: Jesus Christ did not leave us to live out this human existence in our own wisdom and power. As Sanctifier, He offers us the opportunity to walk in true power beyond human reasoning. Paul is confessing to the Corinthians that he knew lofty words or brilliant ideas would not convince anyone of the truth of Christ. Rather, he knew that his only calling was to focus solely on the cross of Christ with simple words and language. Everything else was up to the power of the Holy Spirit. Paul's desire was to never trust in human wisdom. Yet our culture—and sadly even our church culture—has lost that heart of dependence on God alone. We build our programs and train our leaders to cater to the consumer mentality of attracting people through creativity or entertainment. We forget that our human wisdom is so limited and naïve. Jesus Christ is our true wisdom—and He wants to live His life through us. If we walk in the truth that Jesus is our Sanctifier, then our ministry will be born out of our total dependence on Him alone.

Day 1: Worship the Lord Jesus as your source of life, wisdom, and strength.

Day 2: Thank Jesus for His desire to live His life in you.

Day 3: Confess the ways you have not consciously depended upon Jesus as your wisdom and strength.

Day 4: Ask the Lord to show you the ways you are living in the power of your flesh—and not in His power.

Day 5: Pray that churches will seek the Lord for His wisdom and walk in His strength—without clever programming.

Day 6: Pray that your pastor and church staff will live in absolute dependence upon Jesus Christ as their wisdom.

Day 7: Ask the Lord to take you deeper in this truth of Jesus Christ as your Sanctifier and giver of all life.

Taken from the book "Come, Lord Jesus: transformation prayer guide"

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Jesus Christ as Our Sanctifier

Jesus Christ is our life! Jesus is more than just our Saviour from our sins of the past. Paul states in 1 Corinthians 1:30 that we are *in Christ*. In Colossians 1:27, Paul says that Christ lives in us! Jesus Christ did not die on the cross for our sins, then go back to the Father and leave us to fend for ourselves in this life. He is our new life.

Perhaps one of the reasons that Christians flounder so much in their walk is the lack of understanding of this key teaching of Scripture. The word “sanctification” has the idea of being set apart *from* something and *to* something else. This means that we are set apart from the life and ways of the world around us and set apart to God.

But this is not something we strive for; it is something we obtain through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul teaches in Colossians 2:6 that we are to live by the same kind of faith as when we received Christ Jesus as Saviour. Jesus used the illustration in John 15 of the vine and the branches. The branch does not produce fruit by straining and striving, but by allowing the life of the vine to flow through it. The life that is in the vine produces life in the branch. Jesus is the vine, and we are the branches.

Jesus Christ as our sanctification means that He lives His life out through us. It is not about our attempts to attain perfection; it is our old life exchanged for His life in us. In humility and obedience, we must surrender our lives to His control. When Jesus Christ is living His life through us, we will exhibit His very own characteristics—the greatest of which is supreme love for God and for others.

What an amazing and wonderful truth for us to understand and take for our own! Jesus Christ is not only our Savior from sin, He is our very breath of life. He will breathe through you as you yield your thoughts, hopes, and plans to Him. Paul’s classic words in Galatians 2:20 give us the model for such a life:

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

As you pray through this section on Jesus Christ as our Sanctifier, allow the Holy Spirit to probe deep into your heart and bring you to a greater understanding of the wonderful truth of your union with your Saviour. This is a glorious reality to be lived out in your life daily.

Transformation: Jesus in Our Midst

As we pray about transformation; we need a common definition of what a truly transformed community might look like:

A transformed community is:

- A neighbourhood, city, or nation whose values and institutions have been overrun by the grace and presence of God.
- A place where divine fire has not merely been summoned, but has fallen.
- A society in which natural change has been disrupted by invasive supernatural power.
- A culture that has been impacted comprehensively and undeniably by the Kingdom of God.
- A location where Kingdom values are celebrated publicly and passed on to future generations.

Community transformation is indicated when:

- Political leaders publicly acknowledge their sin and dependence on God. (2 Kings 11:17-18; 23:1-3; Jonah 3:6-9).
- New laws, curricula, and business practices are put into effect (2 Chronicles 19:4-10; Nehemiah 10:31).
- The natural environment is restored to its original life-nurturing state (Leviticus 26:4-5; 2 Chronicles 7:14; Ezekiel 34:27-31).
- Economic conditions improve and lead to a discernible lessening of poverty. (2 Chronicles 17:3-5; Psalm 144:13-14; Isaiah 60:5-7; Amos 9:13).
- There is a marked change in social entertainment and vices as Kingdom values are integrated into the rhythm of daily life (Ezra 10:1-4; Nehemiah 8:10, 16-17; Acts 19:17-20).
- Crime and corruption diminish throughout the community
- (2 Kings 12:13-15; Nehemiah 5:6-12; Isaiah 60:17-18).
- Volunteerism increases as Christians recognize their responsibility to heal and undergird the community (Isaiah 58:10-12; 61:1-4).
- Restored hope and joy leads to a decline in divorce, bankruptcy, and suicide (Nehemiah 12:27-28, 43; Isaiah 54:11-14; 61:3-7; Jeremiah 30:17-19; 31:11-13; Hosea 2:15).
- The spiritual nature of the growing socio-political renewal becomes a hot topic in secular media (2 Chronicles 20:29; Nehemiah 6:16; Isaiah 55:5; Ezekiel 36:36; Acts 19:17).
- Overwhelmed by the goodness of God, grateful Christians take the embers of revival into surrounding communities and nations (2 Chronicles 17:9; Isaiah 61:6; Acts 11:20-26).

(Source: The Sentinel Group)

About Prayer Transformation Ministries

This prayer guide is written and published by Prayer Transformation Ministries, a ministry located in Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN. Since 1993, Prayer Transformation Ministries (PTM) has worked with the prayer movement in the Twin Cities, the state of Minnesota, and the nation.

Prayer Transformation Ministries *provides Christ-centered awareness, training, and equipping for personal and societal transformation.*

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Prayer Transformation Ministries serves by:

- Teaching/writing on principles of revival and transformation.
- Encouraging local churches to develop "cultures of prayer."
- Publishing prayer guides devoted to united prayer.
- Networking intercessors and prayer movements.
- Giving leadership to citywide catalytic prayer events.
- Producing *Call to Prayer* radio spots.
- Encouraging a children's prayer movement.
- Training and networking local church prayer leaders.

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