“God’s Providence, Prayer, And Our Fellowship”

1 Thessalonians 3:11-13
Last Sunday: Being Restored in Our Father’s Image!

Genesis 5:1-3 – created “in His likeness”

**Beyond salvation**, God’s plan is for **EACH of us** to become conformed to the image of His Son (Romans 8:29).

* think  
* speak  
* act like Jesus
Vs. 11 – Paul Requests God’s Aid To See Them

Previously expressed this desire: (1 Thess. 2:17)
But Satan hindered (1 Thess. 2:18)

**Insights:**
* Satan can intervene, hinder fellowship
* God can/WILL overcome Satan!
  (see 1 Peter 5:8-10)
* God’s desire is consistent worship/fellowship!
  (Hebrews 10:24-25)
Prayer For Fellowship Born Of The Deeper Desire in Heart!

“God, whom I serve with my spirit in preaching the gospel of His Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you in my prayers at all times, asking that now at last by God’s will I may succeed in coming to you. For I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you…” (Rom. 1:9-11)
Motivation: To **Give** Not To Get!
1 Thessalonians 3:12

Such a heart is well-prepared to:
* serve
* love
* bless

**God’s spiritual economics:**
“getting” the blessing comes from “giving!”
Making Fellowship a Priority

Alicia Plant’s commitment to AWANA

And God blessed her commitment!
The Result Of Loving/Serving: 1 Thessalonians 3:13

He may establish your hearts unblamable
* in holiness (service refines character via humility + crucified ego + love!)
* before our God and Father
* “at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ
* with all His saints”

The glorious Judgment
Seat of Jesus Christ!
“It will be worth it all!”
No Wonder Paul Prayed With Such Passion For Fellowship!

“... as we night and day keep praying most earnestly that we may see your face...”

(1 Thessalonians 3:10).

Vs. 12 – “May the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another; and for all men...”

The plan? “Love” people to the Lord! 😊
How Can I Grow In Love?

Vs. 12 – “may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another…”

1. Pray! (James 5:16b)
2. Love is a fruit of the Spirit (1 Cor. 13:4-8)
3. Become aware of others and their needs (** be the eyes, ears, hands, feet of Jesus!)
4. Pour yourself into them