

**August 23, 2020**

*Questions for Reflection*

In Romans 12:1–8, Paul urges us not to be conformed to the world's standards, but to be transformed and renewed by God's will. Is there an area of your life that is in need of transformation and renewal? Reflect and pray this week, asking God to show what God wills for you in this area of your life. Paul goes on to name a variety of gifts that members of the church have been given, all of which contribute to the overall functioning of the body (the church). Is there a gift in that list which you possess? Which one? How are you making use of that gift among God's people? Is there someone in your church or in your life who shares a particular gift of the Spirit faithfully? This week, offer a prayer of thanksgiving for that person and for any others who use their gifts to enhance your life or the life of your worshipping community.

*Household Prayer: Morning*

Loving God,  
thank you for the gift of this new day.  
You have blessed me in so many ways  
in days that have come before.  
Today I will look and listen  
for signs of your joy and gladness  
present in my life,  
in the lives of others,  
and in the beautiful world you garden.  
As I begin this day,  
I pray that you will strengthen my soul  
and that whatever your purpose for me  
will be fulfilled in faithfulness and love.  
In Christ's name I pray. Amen.

*Household Prayer: Evening*

God of my salvation,  
preserve anyone in danger this night;  
reach out to anyone who is in trouble.  
Give us the quiet rest that comes  
from knowing you are above everything,  
watching over us with steadfast love.  
I pray that today,  
in some word I spoke,  
in some act of care I offered,  
Christ was lifted up as Lord and Savior.  
Continue to transform me  
so that I may discern  
what you find good and acceptable and perfect.  
Help me to dream always  
your own vision  
of a world in full bloom,  
verdant with joy and gladness,  
teeming with thanksgiving and justice.  
At the close of this day,  
I entrust myself,  
and all those I love,  
to your care and keeping.  
In Jesus' name. Amen.