

# **Praying to the Sovereign God for Power**

## *A Call to Spiritual Reformation, Week 9 – Outline*

### **Chapter 10 Overview**

- I. Introduction (167-70)
  1. There is a connection between Paul's praise (Eph 1:3-14) and the content of his prayer (1:15-23)
  2. Paul's prayer here is a model of how to pray under the sovereignty of God
- II. Because God is sovereign, Paul offers thanksgiving for God's intervening, sovereign grace in the lives of his readers [1:15-16] (170-72)
  1. "Because it is God who has worked in them, Paul has not stopped thanking God; because it is God alone who sovereignly and graciously continues to effect such transformation, he is the one who must be petitioned to continue his good work" (170)
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          - (2) "The Father of glory"/"the glorious Father"
            - (a) Expresses awareness of God's proper domain
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IV. Because God is sovereign, Paul offers a review of God’s most dramatic displays of power [1:19b-23] (177-180)

1. “For an omnipotent God there cannot be degrees of difficulty. There is no one act that is ‘most powerful.’ Paul does not hunt for the most powerful of the most difficult displays of God’s power, since such categories are essentially meaningless.” (178)
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