

**Sermon Title:** Prayer

**Sermon Series:** Philippians – Unbreakable Joy

**Scripture:** Philippians 1:3-11

**Speaker:** Pastor Ian Bonthron



How should we \_\_\_\_\_ for each other?

### **Philippians 1:3-11**

**Philippians 1:3-5** - 3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

1. Start With \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

a. *“Prayer is conscious, personal communication with the God of the universe.”* – Marshall Segal

b. Prayer is:

- commanded for our benefit
- pleasing to God
- used to bring about God’s plan

**Philippians 1:3-4** - 3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy,

Because of Their \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ – vs. 5

**Philippians 1:5** – 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

a. Concern – **Philippians 1:19** – 19 for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance,

b. Care – **Philippians 2:30** – 30 for he nearly died[a] for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.

**Philippians 4:15-16** – 15 And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. 16 Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again.

Because of \_\_\_\_\_ Work

**Philippians 1:6** – 6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

**Hebrews 12:2** – 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Because They're \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ – vs.7-8

**Philippians 1:7-8** – 7 It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. 8 For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

2. Pray we can grow in Love – vs. 9

**Philippians 1:9** – 9 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with \_\_\_\_\_ and all \_\_\_\_\_,

What \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ your love?

**1 Thessalonians 5:20-22** – 20 Do not despise prophecies, 21 but test everything; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil.

### **Our love is guided and guarded by God's Word**

**Ephesians 3:17-19** – 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

The results of growing love – **Philippians 1:10-11** – 10 so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Pray \_\_\_\_\_

Pray \_\_\_\_\_ Christ is at work

Pray for our love to \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions:****Getting to know you Questions:**

1. What's the best advice you've ever been given?

2. What are the items that tend to occupy your prayer list?

**Into the Bible Questions:**

Read Philippians 1:3-11

Philippians 1:3-11 – 3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. 6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. 7 It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. 8 For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. 9 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

1. What was something from the passage or sermon that surprised you, helped you, confused you, or bothered you?

2. What does this passage tell us about God? People? Living to please God?

3. In what ways is Christ at work in the Christian's life? What are some Bible passages that talk about this?

4. How might this be a comfort in times of trouble?

5. Paul desires the Philippians' love to abound more and more with knowledge and discernment. How might a lack of knowledge and discernment hinder them (and us) from abounding in love?

6. What do we learn about Paul's perspective on life from his prayer? How might this be different from your perspective on life and prayer?

**For Extra Study: Read 1 Peter 5:5-10**

1 Peter 5:5-10 – 5 Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, 7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. 8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. 10 And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

1. What does this passage say about what Christ has done for us (Vs. 10)?

2. From this passage, what are some Christ like characteristics we could pray for each other about?

3. What needs to change in your life so that you can live this out?

4. Jot down any insights, questions, or key observations.

## **Application Questions**

1. Think of the Christians that know you best. What in your life would cause them to thank God, rejoice, and have confidence that God is at work in your life?

2. If Paul's prayer was answered in your life, how might your perspective on suffering for the gospel be transformed? How would your personal life or ministry be impacted?

3. What about your community group members' lives cause you to give thanks, rejoice over and have confidence for them? Take some time to share.

4. What would it take to be able to say about each other, "We are partners in the gospel"?

5. What are some ways you can grow in Knowledge and Discernment so you can abound in God's true love?

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