

# Philippians 1:9–10 Study Guide

**Theme: Love That Grows**

## Key Scripture

### Philippians 1:9–10 (NIV)

*"And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ."*

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## Overview

In his letter to the Philippians, Paul does not pray for wealth, comfort, or success. Instead, he prays that their love would continue to grow. This passage teaches that Christian love is not merely emotion or affection. It is a love that develops through knowing God, understanding His truth, and applying wisdom in everyday life.

As believers mature spiritually, their love becomes stronger, wiser, and more Christlike. This growing love affects how they treat others, make decisions, forgive offenses, and live for God's glory.

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## Background

Paul wrote Philippians while imprisoned. Despite difficult circumstances, his concern was not for himself but for the spiritual growth of the believers in Philippi.

He understood that healthy churches and healthy Christians are built upon a foundation of growing love.

Love is not meant to remain stagnant. It should continually increase as we grow closer to Christ.

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### 1. Love Should Continually Grow

#### Philippians 1:9

*"That your love may abound more and more..."*

The word **abound** means to overflow, increase, and grow beyond limits.

Paul was not satisfied with average Christianity. He wanted believers to experience increasing love toward:

- God
- Fellow believers
- Family members

- Neighbors
- Even enemies

## **Supporting Scripture**

### **Matthew 22:37–39**

Jesus said the greatest commandments are to love God and love others.

## **Discussion Questions**

1. What causes our love for others to grow cold?
2. How has God's love changed the way you view people?
3. In what area of your life does your love need to grow?

## **Fill in the Blank**

Christian love should never remain \_\_\_\_\_.

**Answer:** stagnant

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## **2. Love Requires Knowledge**

### **Philippians 1:9**

*"In knowledge and depth of insight..."*

Biblical love is not blind.

The more we know God, the more we understand how to love people.

Knowledge comes through:

- Reading Scripture
- Prayer
- Worship
- Walking with Christ

Many people define love according to culture, but believers define love according to God's Word.

## **Supporting Scripture**

### **1 John 4:7–8**

*"Whoever loves has been born of God and knows God."*

## **Biblical Example**

### **Jesus and the Woman Caught in Adultery (John 8)**

Jesus demonstrated both truth and grace.

He did not ignore sin, yet He showed compassion and mercy.

His love was guided by wisdom.

## Discussion Questions

1. Why is knowledge important in developing godly love?
2. How can truth and love work together?
3. What happens when love lacks biblical wisdom?

## Fill in the Blank

The more we know \_\_\_\_\_, the better we can love others.

**Answer:** God

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## 3. Growing Love Produces Wise Decisions

### Philippians 1:10

*"So that you may be able to discern what is best..."*

Discernment is the ability to recognize God's best path.

Love without discernment can become emotional and unstable.

God wants believers to make decisions that honor Him.

Growing love helps us:

- Respond rather than react
- Forgive instead of retaliate
- Seek unity rather than division
- Pursue God's will rather than personal preference

## **Supporting Scripture**

### **James 1:5**

*"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God."*

## **Discussion Questions**

1. Why is discernment important in today's culture?
2. What decisions currently require God's wisdom in your life?
3. How can growing love improve your decision-making?

## **Fill in the Blank**

Discernment helps us choose what is \_\_\_\_\_.

**Answer:** best

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## **4. Growing Love Leads to Godly Character**

### **Philippians 1:10**

*"May be pure and blameless for the day of Christ."*

Paul points believers toward eternity.

Growing love transforms our character.

God's goal is not simply that we know more, but that we become more like Jesus.

As love matures, believers become:

- More patient
- More forgiving
- More humble
- More compassionate
- More Christlike

## **Supporting Scripture**

### **Galatians 5:22–23**

The fruit of the Spirit reflects Christ's character.

## **Biblical Example**

### **Joseph (Genesis 37–50)**

Joseph was betrayed by his brothers, yet years later he forgave them.

His growing faith produced mature love and godly character.

## Discussion Questions

1. How does growing love change a person's character?
2. Which fruit of the Spirit do you need most right now?
3. How does forgiveness demonstrate spiritual maturity?

## Fill in the Blank

God's goal is not only information but \_\_\_\_\_.

**Answer:** transformation

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## Application

This week:

- Spend time daily in God's Word.
  - Pray for your love to grow.
  - Ask God for wisdom and discernment.
  - Choose forgiveness where bitterness exists.
  - Look for opportunities to show Christlike love.
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## Key Takeaway

**Love that grows is love that reflects Christ. As believers increase in knowledge, wisdom, and grace, they become more capable of loving others well, making godly decisions, and living lives that honor God. True spiritual maturity is measured not merely by what we know, but by how deeply we love.**

### **Memory Verse**

#### **Philippians 1:9**

*"And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight."*