

# THE TAKE AWAY

DISCUSSION GUIDE

**Sunday, August 21, 2022**  
**The Book of Philippians**

**Message Summary:**

This week in our series, The Book of Philippians, Pastor John Carter taught us again out of Philippians 1:8-9:

*[Phil. 1:8-9 NKJV] 8 For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ. 9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment...*

God has given us grace through His Son, Jesus Christ. And when we receive Him into our heart, the question of our identity is settled. God loves you. He longs for you. He is intensely jealous of your affection. Our relationship with God is what defines us. This intense love is the most defining characteristic of the relationship between God and His children. And God wants us to share this love with one another. But not just any kind of love. He wants us share *agape* love, the absolute unselfish love of God himself. This isn't anything like the word "love" that we use so freely. This is not love that comes from human emotion. It is more than a feeling or a passion that craves selfishly. This is the love of God that comes directly from the Holy Spirit. This is a love that is deeper than and far more superior than emotion.

This is the how God wants us to learn how to love others – imitating the *agape* love of God that He so freely shows us. And Phil. 1:9 tells us our love should be growing more and more (grow larger and larger, compound multiplication) in a way that is demonstrative and visible to others. It should grow in such a way that it overflows out of your life, and never stops increasing. That is only possible if the source of that love is the Holy Spirit who has a never-ending supply of love to give.

**Other Scriptures:**

*[Romans 5:5 NKJV] 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

*[Ephesians 3:16-19 NKJV] 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what [is] the width and length and depth and height-- 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What is the difference between human love and Godly love (agape love)?
2. What does selfless love look like?
3. How can you show *agape* love in a way that is overflowing or abounding?

**Life Application:**

This week, reread our key verses for today, Philippians 1:8-9. Pastor John said, "Love is the highest doctrine of the Bible. The is the knowledge that God wants us to grow in. When we walk in the revelation of His *agape* love, we can overflow with the fullness of that love toward others." This week, examine your love walk. Are you flowing in your feelings and emotions? Or are you overflowing in the love of God? It is time to grow more and more in the love of God, and know that there is always more love to give!