

Philippians 1:9-11
Gospel Driven Prayer
Rootwork

1. **(Everyday)** Before you begin your study time - spend time in prayer! Go through your “yesterday” and ask the Lord to reveal your heart! Prepare your heart and surrender your will to the Spirit of God! Allow Him to have full access by not withholding anything He wants to do in and then do through you!! Make a conscious effort to bow your will and your obedience to the Lord before you even dive in! This prepares your heart to hear and to heed everything He speaks to you!

2. **(Everyday)** Then spend time in adoration and worship after you have cleansed your heart and before you dive into the scriptures!! Proclaiming who God is and adoring Him lifts our eyes up and keeps our focus on what really matters...putting God in His rightful place and putting us in ours! Remember, the enemy is going to try to keep you from being in the Word, he hates when we worship our God- Worship breaks his bondages over believers, so submit to God, resist him and he will flee!!

3. If you were at the “Digging Deeper Workshop” and you would like to structure these scriptures, Copy and paste Philippians 1 into a word/ pages document or write it out verse by verse (if you have not done already), following the structuring handouts you received! If you were not there and want to watch it, search “Digging Deeper” on our website or app and watch it for tools to help you in your study time!

4. **(Everyday)** After you finish your Rootwork every day, be sure to spend time in prayer (ACTS) going through what you have learned and received from the Word of God! This is also in your “Digging Deeper” handout!
5. Take some time reviewing your notes from the last section we covered a couple of weeks ago. What did you learn about true fellowship and how has it changed your perspective?
6. Read Philippians 1:1-11 to the full context again.
7. Read Philippians 1:9-11 and mark any key words that are repeated. Then look up any words you want further insight on in your Blue Letter Bible app. (If you need help with this please let me know)
8. Look at verse 9, what do you see in this first verse about prayer? Who is the focus? What is the focus?
9. When you think of prayer, what is the first thing that comes to mind?
10. Paul prayed about things that mattered, and prayer was a priority in his life. See if you can find all the other areas in his letters where he tells the audience he is writing to that he is praying for them, and what does he pray for in each?
11. For the church of Philippi, what is Paul praying for?
12. What is the definition of “love” here?

13. In Bible study we talked about what agape love means, how it is demonstrated and what it is based on. Record from your notes or memory what we discussed about agape love!
14. I read a quote from Logos Bible dictionary stating, “Agape love is unconcerned with the self and concerned with the greatest good of another. Agape isn’t born just out of emotions, feelings, familiarity, or attraction, but from the will and as a choice. Agape requires faithfulness, commitment, and sacrifice without expecting anything in return.” (Bible dic). Spend a few minutes looking at this and write down how God has shown you His agape love personally. Give examples!
15. Look up the following verses on agape love and go through them slowly, structuring them or spacing them apart so you do not miss a word. These verses dissected slowly will reveal a call that for each and every one of us to love, and to love with authenticity! Look them up and record what the Lord is speaking to you through each!
- 1 John 3:16
 - 1 John 13:35
 - John 15:1-11
 - 1 John 3:1-18
 - 1 John 4:7-13
 - Matt 22:36-40
16. There are many more scriptures that call us to love as we have also been loved. Do a deep dive and find as many as you can and write out each on, spacing them and drawing from them what the Lord is speaking to your heart! Record all of your prayers and insights!

17. Stop for a minute and answer this honestly: do you truly know that God loves you? Agape, unconditional, without pause, without hesitation, and without disappointment? Do you know that the God who breathed life into your lungs, gave you the gift of eternal life in your new birth, loves you deeply and loves you relentlessly? Do not go on to the next question without wrestling with this. There will always be a hinderance in your relationship with God and others if you do not believe God loves you! If your answer in any way, shape or form was “no” ask the Lord to reveal to you why? Ask Him to show you what hinders you from receiving His love? What lie are you believing? Then lay that lie down in surrender, walk through whatever letting go you need to walk through and believe by faith that God loves you wholeheartedly and unconditionally. He loves because He is love, not because of what you do or don’t do!! Abide in His love, stop trying to earn it, you already have it!!
18. In Bible study I shared a quote that was profound on the topic of God’s love. “Here is the wonder of God’s love in adopting us: We needed a Father, but He did not need sons.—Thomas Watson...write out your thoughts on this quote! How does this reveal God’s love for you?
19. Do you have a hard time loving people? Truly, genuinely loving people? Are you one of those that as you heard me talk about our call to love, you were challenged to the core thinking, “I don’t like people, how am I going to love them?” 😊 it is funny but sometimes it is honest! Especially when we are tired, worn out and don’t have much to give! All of this is an indication that you are trying live as a dried up branch that is not connected to the vine. Not getting the nourishment, water and sap that comes from the Holy Spirit! Stop and ask the Spirit of God to fill you with the fresh, nourishing power of the Holy Spirit so He is the one doing the work through you! He is the one loving through you, giving you the strength and desire to keep going! This requires the removal of self, the death to trying to live your life independently from the Lord and the

strength He gives! After you spend time at His feet getting washed by the Word and nourished by His Spirit, look up 2 Cor. 5:14-15 and record what it says in your notes!

20. Below is a list of what agape loving people looks like. But remember every single one of these are impossible without the Holy Spirit working in you! Do not look at this list and try to evaluate how well you love, rather let this list show you how much you need to depend on the Spirit of God in order for Him to love through you! Let this be an evaluation of how well you are abiding, not how well you are loving! This fruit of love (detailed by this list) will happen naturally when you abide-cling-dwell- and remain in Christ!!

- Love takes commitment and perseverance - not everyone is lovable, we won't always feel like loving!
- Love does not compromise on truth - **Truth must be saturated in Love and Love must be saturated in Truth!!** Look up 1 Corinthians 13:6 and Eph 4:13-1. Record what they say about truth and love!
- Love is willing - no one took Jesus' life, He laid down His life willingly
- Love requires self sacrifice -we want a love that is comfortable that does not challenge our lifestyles of American Christianity, we want a love that will reach out to us and surround us, we want love not to require sacrifice and that is not love!
- Love loves the undeserving- Jesus didn't die just for His friends, but His enemies. He died for the arrogant and the proud! We want to love those

who are easy to love and that give love in return. That is not unconditional!

- Love is forgiving- perhaps our failure to love is because we fail to forgive. We allow a record player of thoughts go in our heads of all the wrongs done to us, we keep a record of wrongs - and share those wrongs of someone to someone else to fuel anger and unforgiveness - it is very hard to love someone who at that moment you are condemning!!

21. Now remember, let this be an indicator of abiding - none of us love like this on our own, that is the point, no one can love like this apart from the Spirit of God! Yet this is what we are called to produce when abiding in the Vine and being filled with the Spirit! So let me ask you....how well are you abiding? How close are you dwelling? We need the Spirit of God to do what He is calling us to do, He would never ask us to do something without giving us a way to do it! Love has a source and it is not you, it is God!
22. Read Galatians 5:19-23 and record what you see and learn!
23. Read Romans 5:1-5 and record what the Spirit of God speaks to you!
24. Read 1 Peter 1:22 what is Peter saying here?
25. In Philippians 1:9, Paul does not pray for them to love, he prays for their love to abound more and more! He knew they were already loving,,,look up the word, “abound” and record what you find!

26. This is such an overflowing, pouring out kind of love. Just like the waterfall visual the Lord spoke to me about! Has the Lord ever used something around you in nature or in life that spoke to you in a way that changed your whole perspective? If so, what was it?
27. Looking back at the end of verse 9, notice how Paul prays that their love would abound IN real knowledge and all discernment! Love has protective parameters, or banks just like on a river..they keep the river from overflowing in one way or the other. These banks or barriers make sure there is wisdom in love. Love without direction can bring destruction. Love is not blind, and is not lead by winds of emotion. Write out your thoughts on this, how does this bring about balance and wisdom?
28. This verse has so much truth in it, I look at this and think. “No human could write such profound wisdom in a few words. This is so God!” The balance of loving with knowledge on one side and discernment on the other! Do you struggle with this balance? If so how?
29. Look up “real, “knowledge” and “all” discernment” in your Blue Letter Bible app. Record what you find!
30. Read 1 Cor 8:1, and 1 Cor. 13:2 and record what knowledge is without love! Have you ever experienced this? If so, what happened?
31. Write your thoughts on this puritan quote: “Our love grows soft if it is not strengthened by truth, and our truth grows hard if it is not softened by love.” (John Scott)
32. How have you seen this being true in your own life?

33. Now in Bible study we talked a bit about discernment. Spiritual discernment is knowing God from His word so well that you are able to distinguish what is pleasing and displeasing to Him in unclear situations! Take a minute to think about your walk with the Lord. Do you have this kind of discernment in your life? If so, Give an example!
34. Discernment is the difference between good and best, right and almost right, maturity and good deeds. How important is it that we have biblical discernment? Have you been in a situation where the answer was not cut and dry and you didn't have the discernment of what to do? If so, what happened? Did you have a situation when you did have discernment of what to do? If so, what happened?
35. Look up the following verses and record what you find on discernment. If you have time, look up as many verses as you can on discernment and what the Bible says about it (especially in proverbs 🤔) record what you find!!
- Col. 1:9-10
 - Hebrews 5:14
 - 1 Cor. 13:6
 - 1 John 4:1
 - 1 Kings 3:9
36. Because Agape love is not concerned with self, but concerned about the BEST of another, it takes knowledge working with great discernment to know how to be a vessel for the Holy Spirit in their lives! Often the best way to love people is to pray for them! Read this quote and record your thoughts on this! “God never gives us discernment in order that we may criticize, but that we may intercede” Oswald Chambers
37. What are other ways that love is expressed when using discernment?

38. Read Phil. 1:10 and look up the words “approve”, “excellent”, “sincere” and “blameless” in your Blue letter Bible app and record what you find!
39. Think about what approve means. Why do you think Paul points this out? Why is it important to examine and to test the things that are excellent?
40. God’s Word is very clear that love and faith must be sincere. Look up these verses and record what they say about sincerity:
- Romans 12:9
 - 2 Cor 6:4-6
 - 1 Timothy 1:5
 - Matthew 6:33
 - Jeremiah 29:13
41. As you have looked up what excellent means in the original language, think about your life..what things do you pray for, or focus on that are excellent? That are valuable? That bear weight? So that you can be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ!
42. What does this part of the prayer tell you about what Paul was most concerned about? Is that what you are most concerned about?
43. “Sincerity is damaged by a penchant for people-pleasing and the creation of a public persona to mask a private reality. Social media has become a breeding ground for insincerity, comparison, and playacting. Christians can get caught up in this, too. We may fall into insincerity by becoming an expert in Christian terminology, culture, and activities while being far from God in our hearts (see Matthew 15:8). God is not impressed.

Insincere religious practices are a form of pride and detestable to God (Mark 7:6) ”(gotquestions.com). What are your thoughts on this quote? Does it convict you? Has this been a problem in your life personally? If so, how?

44. Sincerity and insincerity, (or insecurity for that matter, which goes hand in hand) how has this effected your walk with God? How has this hindered your ability to be used by Him?
45. How does sincerity and blameless go together in this verse? How can one affect the other?
46. Read verse 11, what does it mean to have the fruit of righteousness?
47. What is the purpose here?
48. True Biblical Agape love is selfless for God’s glory and not for self fulfillment nor identity in things that we think will satisfy! The only reason we were created is to bring God glory!! Write your thoughts on that!
49. Just like we talked about in Bible study, think for a minute about your circumstances..the ones that tend to want to steal your joy..now look at them through the lense that the only reason you are going through this is to bring God glory! The only reason you have this battle or struggle is to give God glory and praise! What is your circumstance and How does that change your perspective?
50. This is a devoted mind! A devoted mind knows the only reason you were created was to give God glory through receiving His love, loving Him in return and loving others, therefore circumstances do not matter! They

can't steal your joy because you hope is not found there! That is how we trust and just abide, that is how we can love selflessly, live righteously and serve compassionately - All for God's glory! Look up and write out 1 Cor. 10:31 and put it somewhere you can see it every day! Remind yourself to whom you belong and why you were created and enjoy the freedom of having a purpose that is eternal, focused and life giving to everyone around you, all while glorifying God!

51. Spend time writing out your prayer of response to everything the Lord is teaching you, challenging you with, and sanctifying you through! Then praise Him for His grace and love He pours out to you just like that waterfall!! It never stops, you just have to allow the the Lord to clean your vessel, and allow the river of living water to flow in and then flow out of you!!!