



June 2, 2019

# DIGGING DEEPER

Philippians 1:1-11

**The purpose of this document** is to help us take the word beyond our Sunday gathering and to **think through the practical implications of the Scriptures** and then to be intentional about living the word out.

**Answers should be thoughtful and thorough to ensure we are truly DIGGING DEEPER.**

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# Participants in the Gospel

Philippians 1:1-5; Acts 16

## Questions Worth Asking

Paul had no intentions on going to Macedonia during his second missionary trip. He was looking to penetrate Asia Minor with the gospel. But the Lord directed him to enter Europe with the sole purpose of preaching the gospel to the least and the lost. The Lord opened the heart of Lydia and her household to receive his truth. The Lord performed a miracle to capture the heart of the jailer and his household. The mission was proving to be fruitful as souls were saved out of darkness and being brought into the marvelous light. People in Philippi were becoming participants in the gospel. They answered the call of Christ and kept the commandments of Christ. Paul knew that this transformation was the result of a good work God began in the hearts and minds of the saints in Philippi. And Paul gave God praise that those who were called by Christ had made the choice to continue in the ways of Christ.

1. What was it like when the Lord opened your heart and you realized he was worthy of you trusting him with your life?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- What was your life like before you were introduced to Christ?
- How did you come to know and then believe the truth of who Jesus is?
- What did it feel like to realize that you would be in a relationship with Jesus forever (the for real forever)?

2. In what ways (good, bad and/or indifferent) have you experienced a change in your participation in the gospel since the first day you came to Christ?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- What was your level of zeal for the gospel when you first came to Christ?
- What things, situations or circumstances have caused your zeal to subside?
- What things, situations or circumstances have contributed to your zeal for the gospel to overflow?

## Steps Worth Taking

Here are some **suggested steps** that will help you be a practicing participant in the gospel...

1. Write out your testimony.

*It is helpful to remember where God has brought you from.*

2. Mail that testimony to someone you know that doesn't know your full faith journey with Jesus.

*This person can be saved or unsaved.*

3. Read and meditate on [Psalm 103](#).

## Partakers of Grace

Philippians 1:6-7

### Questions Worth Asking

The right response to the love of Christ was truly the result of a good work that Lord began in the saints at Philippi. Paul was convinced that the Lord would complete the good work he began. This conviction that Paul had was birthed out of the fact that the saints in Philippi were co-participants of grace with him. Their commitment to Christ was something that could clearly be seen by the life that they lived. They were caring for Paul while he was bound in chains. They were also fighting the good fight of faith by speaking against heretical doctrine and spreading the gospel to build up believers and love on the unbelievers. These were clear signs that displayed what love looks like. If someone can't see signs of the Lord's love in our life, the question must be asked if we are continuing in the faith. There should be a clear look of love that causes nonbelievers to see the love of the Lord in our life and believers to be convinced that the Lord will complete the good work he began.

1. How have you been intentional about being an active participant in advancing the kingdom of heaven on earth?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- In what ways have you seen the gospel effectively and meaningfully shared with others?
- What are ways that you have or can partner with other believers that are fighting the good fight of faith?
- Why is it necessary to be intentional about spreading the gospel rather than letting it "just happen"?

2. What are you doing to ensure you are able to make a defense for the gospel in a culture that is becoming more and more opposed to the truth?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- How have you seen the fabric of Christianity deteriorating in this nation?
- Why is it important for the believer to understand the culture they are living in?
- How can we leverage our understanding of the culture so we can effectively present the gospel to have an impact in someone's life?

### Steps Worth Taking

Here are some **suggested steps** that will help you be co-participants of grace...

1. Identify someone in the faith family who is advancing the gospel and has a need. Do what you can to help meet that need.  
*It could be offering to babysit for a couple of hours so someone can have "me" time.*
2. Send an uplifting note to someone you know that is faithfully serving the body of Christ.  
*This could be a greeter, worship leader, band member, Children's Ministry partner, etc.*
3. Be intentional about staying current on current events so you can enter into dialogue with nonbelievers about the world around them and share your biblical perspective on situations.

## Pathway for Godly-Growth

Philippians 1:8-11; John 6; Matthew 7:24-27; Romans 12:1-2

### Questions Worth Asking

Love is a significant character trait to the life of a believer. We can't reflect the life of our Lord without the love of the Lord. Yet love was never meant to be a stand-alone character trait of the believer. Love must be mixed with knowledge and discernment if it is going to be a love that looks like the Lord and lasts until the Lord calls us home. With the right recipe for a lasting love (love+knowledge+discernment), the believer is able to approve (test) what is of God, apply the things of God to their life, and accumulate the fruit of righteousness that comes through God the Son. Without the right recipe, we will be left doing good things but missing out on the things of God. And while good things may cause others to be happy with us, only God things will position us to please our Creator. If we are going to have a lasting love we must get to know our Savior so that we can perceive his presence and respond rightly to his commands. This will mean that persecution will come as we will learn next week, but it also will lead to us continuing a partnership with the conquering Christ until the day he returns to take us home.

1. In what ways has growing in your knowledge of the person of God changed your view on what it looks like to love like the Lord?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- What was your view on love prior to experiencing what Love really looks like?
- How has knowing God allowed you to more effectively sense the way the Spirit was leading?
- Describe a moment when you either experienced or heard of someone living a love that could only be attributed to a relationship with the Lord. How did that inspire you to OBEY LOVE?

2. How has pursuing good things become a distraction from going after God's thing?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- How have ideas of and pursuits for a comfortable life impacted your willingness to get uncomfortable for Christ?
- How has approving things to ensure they are excellent changed what you are willing to apply in your life?
- In what ways have you seen a social agenda impact the mission of sharing the message of the Savior with those who are lost?

### Steps Worth Taking

Here are some **suggested steps** that will help you position yourself for Godly-growth...

1. Like an old friend you haven't seen in awhile...**Read through the Bible.**  
*We can't live a love that we don't know firsthand. It is imperative to know the heart of God if we are going to live in the will of God. And the way to do that is to be an active part of the church (Christ's bride) and be in the Word.*
2. Approve (test) the things you are doing through the filter of the word of God and drop the good things to focus on the excellent.
3. Listen to the sermon (click here) and identify the spaces where the Spirit is speaking to you and respond right away.