



**Intro:** New series entitled Everyday Encouragement. God is an encouraging God! He is for you not against you! Over the next four weeks we are going to walk through one of the most encouraging books in all of Scripture...Philippians. What is God saying to you through his Word to encourage you and what are some tools that He gives in this book to help us STAY ENCOURAGED AND BE AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO OTHERS.

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

One of the most important aspects to a joy filled life, to an encouraged life and to a life that is lived as an encouragement to others is the aspect of prayer. **If you are going to have a joy filled encouraged life you must have a healthy, vibrant, JOY FILLED prayer life!**

I know...the minute I said “prayer life” I lost about half of you! You’re thinking “great Pastor Mike is just gonna sit there and tell me I need to pray more.” Maybe you do need to pray more. But that’s not really what I’m here to focus on.

**In the first 11 verses of Philippians there is no much joy, so much passion, so much encouragement and it all flows from the position of prayer!**

**Lead With Grace Always! The grace you give is the grace you get. Paul kept himself centered in the grace and peace of Jesus. Rather than focus of the problem, he focused on grace. Rather than complain and worry he blessed and rejoiced!**

**Vs.2** “May the blessings of diving grace and supernatural peace that flow from God our wonderful Father, and our Messiah, the Lord Jesus be upon your lives.”

### **Question 1: What fills your prayers?**

**Vs. 3-5** “My prayers for you are full of praise to God as I give Him thanks for you with great joy! I’m so grateful for your union and our enduring partnership that began the first time I presented to you the gospel.”

Paul’s prayers were vibrant and joy filled because they were first and foremost:

**FULL OF PRAISE! (Praise God continually)**

**FULL OF THANKS (Be grateful for those around you)**

**ANCHORED IN REMEMBERING THE GOOD (grateful for the union and enduring partnership)**

## Question 2: How do you pray?

Vs. 6-8 **"I pray with great faith** for you, because **I'm fully convinced** that the One who began this gracious work in you will faithfully continue the process of maturing you until the unveiling of our Lord Jesus Christ! It's no wonder **I pray with such confidence** since you have a permanent place in my heart! You have remained partners with me in the wonderful grace of God even though I'm here in chains for standing up for the truth the gospel. Only God knows how much I dearly love you with the tender affection of Jesus, the Anointed one."

Paul didn't pray with an uncertain hope. **He prayed with great faith and confidence!** Why? Because **he was fully convinced in the character and ability of God.** That kind of faith and confidence comes through a relationships established in time and experience with God! **How do you pray?** Is it with uncertainty and trepidation or is in in faith-filled confidence that you come boldly before the mercy seat finding grace to help in time of need?

## Question 3: Why do you pray?

Vs. 9-11 "I continue to pray for your love to grow and increase beyond measure, bringing you into the rich revelation of spiritual insight in all things. This will enable you to choose the most excellent way of all - becoming pure and without offense until the unveiling of Christ. And you will be filled completely with the fruits of righteousness that are found in Jesus, the Anointed One - brining great praise and glory to God!"

The purpose, the "why" behind Pauls prayer life was spiritual growth. Not just his own spiritual growth, but the spiritual growth of others!

He prayed that their LOVE might grow and increase

He prayed that their revelation of God and his ways would increase

WHY?

Because as our love and revelation of God grows we will be empowered to choose the EXCELLENT things...the things of God. We will be filled with righteousness! We'll be found IN JESUS. The life found living in Jesus brings God Praise and Glory!

## Conclusion:

**The life lived everyday in Jesus gives you grace, peace and joy overflowing no matter what challenges you face naturally!**

**Jesus said " In this world you will have tribulation but be of good cheer. I have overcome the world!**