

The logo features the word "JOY" in large, white, sans-serif capital letters. Below it, the word "PHILIPPIANS" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The word "in" is positioned between "JOY" and "PHILIPPIANS" in a smaller, lowercase font. The text is set against a dark blue background with a subtle, glowing pattern of light blue and white lines.

Praying for Christ's Love
Philippians 1:9-11
May 26, 2019

A genuine thankful spirit, for something or someone, sooner or later should lead to specific prayers. Christians shouldn't just say, "you're in our thoughts." We should say, "you're in our prayers." Paul's life included prayers; every Christian's life should have periods of consistent prayer. Nothing defines a person's life quiet like that person's prayer life.

Takeaway:

The overwhelming majority of Paul's prayers were reserved for spiritual matters, not physical.

Takeaway:

I do not think that a person can be a genuine disciple of Jesus Christ apart from love. Why? Because we do not have the capacity to love someone with God's love until we have experienced God's love. And once you have experienced God's love, you'll want to give it away.

Four elements of mature love:

1. Our love should be plenteous

Philippians 1:9a (NKJV) And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more...

Mother Teresa:

"The biggest disease today is not leprosy or cancer or tuberculosis, but rather the feeling of being unwanted, uncared for, deserted by everybody. The greatest evil is the lack of love and charity, the terrible indifference towards one's neighbor who lives at the roadside, the victim of exploitation, corruption, poverty, and disease."

2. Our love should be perceptive

Philippians 1:9-10a (NKJV) And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,¹⁰ that you may approve the things that are excellent...

Two banks of love:

- A. The bank of knowledge

Philippians 1:9a And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge...

- B. The bank of discernment

Philippians 1:9b And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment...

Susanna Wesley:

"Whatever weakens your reason, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, obscures your sense of God, or takes off the delight for spiritual things, whatever increases the authority of your body over your mind, that thing is sin."

3. Our love should be pure

Philippians 1:10 (NKJV) That you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ.

Warren Wiersbe:

"*Sincere* means 'to whirl in a sieve,' suggesting the idea of a winnowing process that removes chaff. In both cases the truth is the same: Paul prays that his friends will have the kind of character that can pass the test. (Our English word *sincere* comes from a Latin word that means "unadulterated, pure, unmixed.")

Matthew Henry:

"Hypocrisy is doing the devil's work in God's clothing."

Takeaway:

The greatest love you can show is love without hypocrisy and offense. Except for unbelief, Jesus condemned the sin of hypocrisy more than any other sin, especially with the scribes and Pharisees.

4. Our love should be on purpose

Philippians 1:11 (NKJV) Being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.