

Paul's Prayer for the Philippians

I. Introduction

A. Scripture records some of the apostle Paul's prayers for the brethren he wrote to. Among these is a prayer for the saints at Philippi. Consider some specific things included in this prayer. **Philippians 1:9-11**

II. "This I Pray"

A. Paul's prayer demonstrates his *care* for the Philippians. Like Paul, we ought to have a deep love for our brethren. One of the best ways we can help one another is through prayer. **Phil. 1:9a**

III. "That Your Love May Abound Yet More and More"

A. Paul specifically prayed for the Philippian brethren's *love* to abound. **Philippians 1:9b**
B. They were not said to be denying love, but no matter how strong they were in this area, there was room for improvement. **1 Thessalonians 4:9-10; 2 Peter 3:18**

IV. "In Knowledge and All Discernment"

A. While love must ever be growing, it must be *taught* and *properly directed* according to God's will. Love must be trained to *know* what is right and *apply* it. **Philippians 1:9c; 1 John 5:3**
B. The discernment Paul was praying for the Philippian brethren to develop does not come by accident. Rather, it requires deliberate and diligent pursuit (spiritual exercise). **Hebrews 5:12-14**

V. "So That You May Approve the Things That Are Excellent"

A. The reasons love must abound in knowledge and all discernment are given in verse 10. One reason is in order to "approve the things that are excellent." **Philippians 1:10a**
B. Growing in knowledge and discernment leads one to *understand* and *approve* of what is right and pleasing to God. **1 Corinthians 10:23**

VI. "That You May Be Sincere"

A. Another reason given for what is prayed in verse 9 is that the Philippians may be *sincere*. **Philippians 1:10b**
B. We must allow knowledge gained from God's Word to *purify* our lives, and serve God *genuinely* from the heart. **Matthew 23:25-28**

VII. "And Without Offense to the Day of Christ"

A. Paul also prayed that the Philippians be "without offense." This can refer to being "blameless" (ESV). It can also refer to not being a stumbling block to others. **Philippians 1:10c**
B. Such sincerity and blamelessness ought to be strove for in view of the coming "Day of Christ." **2 Peter 3:11**

VIII. "Being Filled with the Fruits of Righteousness"

A. One who's abounding in love, knowledge, and discernment will be filled with the fruits of righteousness, as Paul goes on to pray. **Philippians 1:11a; Galatians 5:22-23**

IX. "Which Are Through Jesus Christ"

A. These fruits of righteousness are "through Jesus Christ." Bearing this fruit requires us to abide in Him, the *true vine*. He is our source of spiritual life and vitality. **Philippians 1:11b; John 15:4-5**

X. "To the Glory and Praise of God"

A. The ultimate result of the growth Paul prays for in the Philippian brethren is "the glory and praise of God." Glorifying and pleasing God ought to be our foremost aim in life. **Philippians 1:11c; 1 Corinthians 10:31**

XI. Conclusion

A. May we strive to grow in the ways outlined in this prayer, seeking to be as fruitful for the Lord as we can be. **Philippians 1:9-11**