

Is My Life Bringing Glory to God? – Part 2

Philippians 1:9-11

Introduction:

1. A great study in the Bible is to study the prayers of the apostle Paul. Paul was a prayer warrior, and he constantly prayed for these believers at Philippi. vs. 3-4
2. But as we study Paul's prayers, we find that he didn't pray for the churches to be great in number, or be wealthy, prosperous, or have the biggest and best buildings to meet in.
3. Paul was not a shallow Christian, but a spiritually mature believer. His prayers showed it. A person's prayer life will reveal his level of spiritual maturity.
4. Paul's greatest desire was for these believers to grow in Christ, that they, in turn, may bring glory and praise to God. Let's read Paul's prayer in verses 9-11 and notice how he ends this prayer.
5. Christian, if you were to put it in a nutshell, do you know what the ultimate purpose is of your life? It is to bring glory and praise to God. God wants us to be living demonstrations of the glory and grace of His Son, Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 1:12

6. The church, the body of Christ, is composed of believers in Jesus Christ who have God's very Spirit living inside of them. According to **Ephesians 2:22**, we are the habitation of God on earth.
7. Let's look at some verses that Paul wrote to churches and see if we can find a recurring theme. **Romans 11:36, 16:27; 1 Corinthians 1:31; Galatians 1:4-5; Ephesians 3:21; Philippians 4:20**
8. Here is the bottom line: It is not about **us**, it is all about **Him**. It is all about us bringing glory to our Lord and Savior.
 - We live in a very "me-first", self-oriented, self-promoting culture. This has spilled over into the church, and believers live their lives, asking questions like: "What is God going to do for me? How will He bless me? What will He do to make me feel good and happier?"
 - Christian, it is not about God being our heavenly genie and giving us our every wish and whim. It is about us bringing glory to God by allowing Christ to love through us.
 - Your number one purpose in life is to bring glory to God Almighty.
9. Since the day you trusted Christ, God's Spirit has been working in you to transform you into the image and glory of the Lord. The idea is that when people see you, they see the glory of the Lord. **2 Corinthians 3:18**
10. Is my life bringing glory to God? That is a very good and pertinent question to ask ourselves. This prayer of Paul's will help us to answer it. Paul reveals to us clearly how our lives can bring glory to God.

First, by possessing an abounding love. vs. 9

1. What was the first thing Paul prayed about when he prayed for these people? He prayed that their love would abound yet more and more. Love is the foundational element in your Christian life. **Matthew 22:36-40**

2. In fact, Paul taught in 1 Corinthians 13 that you can be full of wonderful virtues and perform noble deeds, but if these things are not flowing forth from the wellspring of love in your heart, they mean absolutely nothing.
3. Every Christian possesses the love of Christ, because Christ's Spirit lives within you (**Romans 5:5**). So, every Christian has the **capacity** to love. But love is a choice. It rests solely with you and has nothing to do with the actions of others.
 - When we say things like, "I can't love him," we are in essence saying, "I don't have the Spirit of Christ, I am lost in my sins and therefore doomed to live in the carnal state of **Titus 3:3**, "...*hateful, and hating one another.*"
4. The fact that Paul was praying to **God** that these people would love, lets you know that love is divine, it comes from God. It is not something you can work up externally. It comes from God's Spirit within you. **Galatians 5:22**
 - When the Holy Spirit fills us, we bear the fruit of love naturally. It doesn't appear worked up, manufactured, or fake. It's genuine and real.
5. Every Christian has the capacity to love, but Paul's prayer was that their love would **abound** yet more and more. The word "*abound*" carries the idea of overflowing in great abundance. So, no matter how much we love, there is always room to love more. In other words, your love can **grow**. **1 Thessalonians 4:9-10**
6. According to verse 9, our love should be rooted in two things.

The first is knowledge.

- Of course, the only source of true divine knowledge is God's Word.
- So, you cannot have true, biblical love apart from God's truth. It is impossible.
- **Illustration: A teenager:** "I love him so much that I am going to have sex with him."
- **Illustration: Two single adults:** "We love each other so much we are going to live together out of marriage."
- **Illustration:** Your friend is doing destructive and harmful things and you say, "I love him too much to say anything."
- These are not examples of true, godly love. If we love in knowledge, we love according to God's truth, not our feelings and preferences. True love is guided by God's truth and leads and helps others to obey God's truth.

The second is sound judgment.

- The word "*judgment*" simply means "discernment." We say, "He has good judgment."
- The world says, "Love is blind." For example, many young people date other people simply because they are enamored with their outward appearance. They never try to discern what kinds of people they really are. Do they love God and His Word? Do they live a godly lives?
- Many people end up marrying because they fell in **lust**. True love is discerning. It is wise and judicious. True love is not blind at all, but just the opposite. It sees clearly through the lens of God's Word and isn't obscured by deceitful emotions and the lies of Satan.

In Conclusion:

1. Do you possess an abounding love for God and people? Do you possess a discerning love that is rooted in God's truth?
2. There is no way we can bring glory to God until we do.
3. May we all pray that our love will abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment.

Second, by learning to think biblically. vs. 10a

1. Paul prayed that these believers would *"approve things that are excellent."*
 - The word *"approve"* simply carries the idea of testing or proving something.
 - **1 Thessalonians 5:21** - *"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."*
2. *"Things that are excellent"* is a reference to God's truth and revelation.
 - We see this in **Romans 2:17-18**. How did a Jew know God's will and how could he discern what was excellent and good? He was instructed out of the law. The law was God's Word to him. The law is holy, just, and good. **Romans 7:12**
3. How would a believer **today** discern things that are excellent?
 - Notice what the apostle Paul told Timothy in **2 Timothy 1:11, 13**.
 - God has given further revelation to us in the body of Christ today. He has provided sound doctrine for us to live our lives by, and God provided it through the apostle Paul. **Titus 1:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-2**
4. Each day when I wake up, how do I prove God's will for my life? Is it a spooky, mystical, subjective experience? Is it based on circumstances or feelings or inner hunches?
5. No - I find His will **fully revealed** in His Word. As I study His Word, it renews my mind (changes my thinking) so that I can go out and think Biblically, and apply the sound doctrine of His Word to the details of my life. **Romans 12:2**
6. When I do this, I am approving things that are excellent, things that correspond with God's truth and God's revelation to me through His Word, rightly divided.
 - Things that are in line with His Word, I embrace. The things that don't fit His Word, I reject and say, "That doesn't belong in my life - it's not in line with His Word. It's not excellent and good."
7. This was Paul's prayer for these saints because Paul knew that this kind of life brings glory to God.

Third, by sincerely living out God's Word. vs. 10b

1. When Paul refers to the *"day of Christ,"* he is referring to the day that Christ will appear and believers will stand before him at the Judgment Seat of Christ.
2 Timothy 4:8
 - Each of us will give an account for how we chose to live our Christian lives **after** we were saved. **2 Corinthians 5:10**
 - Our work for the Lord will be tried, tested (**1 Corinthians 3:13**). God will examine not only **what** we did, but **why** we did it (our motive).
2. So Paul is praying that these believers will not only study God's Word and be able to test and approve the things that are excellent, but then they will sincerely live it out.

3. *"Sincere"* simply means "genuine." It means you are the real deal. You aren't just playing church or playing like you are a Christian. You sincerely and genuinely desire to live your life in accordance with His Word. **2 Corinthians 1:12**
 - Your heart is not to bring offence to God or to other people. **Acts 24:16**
4. What kind of believer brings glory to God? The person who knows and understands God's Word, but then takes what he knows and sincerely desires to live it out in his daily life. **Titus 2:7-8**
 - The doctrine ought to make a difference in the way we live our lives.

Fourth, by bearing righteous fruit. vs. 11

1. God has defined righteousness for us. It isn't subjective. It isn't based on feelings, emotions or opinions. God gave us a Book, and the Bible defines for us what is right and what is wrong.
 - **Hebrews 5:13** refers to the Bible as *"the word of righteousness"* and says that as we use it we have our senses exercised to discern both good and evil.
 - Paul said that the Scripture is given to us for *"instruction in righteousness."* **2 Timothy 3:16**
2. There can be no righteousness without the knowledge of truth. Righteousness is the application of truth to your daily life. **Ephesians 6:14**
3. When you got saved, Christ's Spirit came to dwell in you. It is Christ in you that **reveals** the truth of God's Word to you (**1 Corinthians 2:12**) and then gives you the power and strength to **apply** righteous truth to your life (**Ephesians 3:16**).
4. When a tree bears fruit, how does it happen? The fruit begins from the life within the tree. The inward life of the tree eventually brings outward fruit that you can see. The fruit is bound up in the life of the tree.
5. Similarly, we have no power to bear righteous fruit in our daily life apart from the life of Christ within us.
 - You can't just grit your teeth and go out and try to live righteously. This is self-righteousness and Paul said that it is worthless (**Philippians 3:8-9**).
6. As we discover God's will in His Word, and then yield ourselves to Christ and walk by faith in Him, we begin to start seeing Jesus-fruit in our life.
7. When we talk about Jesus living His life through us, this is not something mystical.
 - I'm afraid sometimes we get the idea that we can ignore His Word and then just pray, "Jesus, live through me," and He will somehow magically live through me.
 - No, the way He lives through me is through my life that I live in this fleshly body. He lives through me through the daily choices and decisions I make.
8. Christ living through you is simply you reading God's Word, and then trusting Christ to enable you to apply His Word to the details of your life.
9. As we do this, we find ourselves *"Being filled with the fruits of righteousness."* In other words, we are making **right** choices that are in accordance with His Word.
10. As we do this, Christ lives through us to the glory and praise of God. vs. 11