

**Paul's Prayer For The  
Church – God's Desire  
For You**

*Philippians 1:1-11*

“Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, 5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; 7 just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace. 8 For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ. 9 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, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, 11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”

Philippians 1:1-11

# 1. Paul's Introduction

*“Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” Philippians 1:1-2*

- 1 Cor. 1:3; 2 Cor. 1:2; Gal. 1:3; Eph. 1:2

- Grace: *unmerited favor* - Romans 5:8

- Peace: *quiet, rest, “to be at one again”* – Eph. 2:13-14; Phil. 4:6-7; 1 Pet. 5:7

## 2. Paul's Love

*“I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, 5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now.” Philippians 1:3-5*

- “I thank God every time I remember you.”
- “I have you in my heart.”
- “I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ.”

### 3. Paul's Prayer

*“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, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, 11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.” Philippians 1:9-11*

- Abound: *“to be in excess, exceed in number or measure, be in abundance, be overflowing.”*

- Approve: *testing of gold to determine purity*

- 1) Will it enhance my walk with God in any way?
- 2) Will it give me the opportunity to be a good testimony?
- 3) Could it potentially cause others to stumble or to misunderstand?
- 4) Is it wise from a physical or financial perspective?

# ONLY POSSIBLE IF WE ABIDE IN HIM

*“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 ‘I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.’” John 15:4-5*