

My Prayer For You

Philippians 1:9-11

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what really matters, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

REFLECTION

In these final verses of our series, Paul has helped us better understand the power of prayer and how we can learn to pray for one another. It is a powerful experience to have someone pray for you. Writing from prison, it would seem logical for Paul to ask the Philippians to pray for **him**. Rather, his prayers are all for **them**. **When in your life have you been impacted by someone lifting you in prayer?**

Paul prays that even in his absence, *that their love would overflow more and more with the love of God* (v.9). Love is something we cannot generate on our own, but rather, we have to **receive** love before we can **give** it. The type of love Paul describes is *agape* love - the purest kind of love - which is an **action** rather than a **feeling**. Paul wanted them to know how loved they are, and for that love to flow out from them. **How easily do you receive love? In what areas of your life do you most need to remember how loved you are?**

Paul knows the struggles in determining what's really important in life. He prays for them to have *the insight to be able to determine what really matters*. (v. 10) We get bogged down with the things of life that we think bring fulfillment: accomplishments, vacations, kids, jobs - and as long as the emphasis is on ourselves, we will always fall short. Paul says it is only through love that we can determine what is important. **Have you found what really matters in your life? How well do you align your time and energy around the things that you love?**

Paul goes on to express his desire for that love to spill out from the church and create a **harvest** in the lives of others. (v. 11) When we turn the attention away from ourselves, we can change others' lives by embodying the love that we have received. **When have you found it rewarding to lift up someone else? Where are you being called to be a love letter that could produce a beautiful harvest for someone else?**