

PRAYING LIKE PAUL

PLP-03 "That You May Abound In Love"

09/14/2025

PHIL 1:9-11 *And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment,¹⁰ so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.*

In 1 COR 3:10 Paul referred to himself as a *"wise Master Builder."* You can see this reflected in his teaching and in his prayers.

1. His petitions and desires follows in a step-by step pattern. It is easy to see the progression
 - That you may abound in love;
 - That you may approve what is excellent;
 - That you may be sincere and without offense;
 - And [may be] filled with the fruits of righteousness
 - To the glory and praise of God
2. Each step in the petition is centered around a verb: May Abound... May Approve... May Be...; and [May] Be Filled...
3. This shows the outcome of the prayer is dependent upon something that must be done or received.
4. Therefore, there must be some "participation / involvement" of the recipient in order for the request to be fulfilled

Paul brings all of this together as he frames his prayer.

The one "key" to all that he desires is "that they abound in LOVE"

THAT YOUR LOVE...

PHIL 1:9A *And this I pray, that your love...*

1. Prayer is a frequent subject of Paul's Letters, and is expressed mostly in "4" categories :
 - a. God's Great Love for us...
 - b. Our Love for God...
 - c. Our Love for our fellow Believers...

d. Our Love for those who abuse and persecute us...

2. The beauty of the word "LOVE" [Agape]
 - a. A common Greek word but elevated to a specialized word in the words of Jesus and the NT Writings
 - b. To "Love" by choice not influenced by the acts, status, or worthiness of the object...
 - c. This "Love" is NOT blind... it is chosen, directed, expressed with eyes wide open... not considering their response
 - d. Best understood by example more that definition
 - i. The pursuit of the "lost sheep"
 - ii. The Father's Love for the Prodigal
 - iii. A forgiven woman pouring oil upon Jesus
 - iv. The "Son of God" hanging upon a Cross
 - e. Can never be "lost / changed / forgotten" by the action of the object of the Agape

MAY ABOUND...

Vs 9B *And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more...*

Paul amplifies and enlarges upon the love he prays for them to receive by multiplying the words:

- Super-abound...
- More and [still] More...

In a sense, Paul is saying "that you NEVER reach the place where this Love has be exhausted..."

How can this be achieved... attained?

Only by receiving "knowledge and discernment from God"

Which is the subject of the next part of Paul's petition...