

PRAYING LIKE PAUL

PLP-04 “That You May Demonstrate Godly Love”

09/21/2025

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.

THAT YOUR LOVE MAY ABOUND, MORE AND MORE...

PHIL 1:9 And this I pray, that your love may abound more and more...

- Love is a frequent subject of Paul's Letters...
God's Great Love for us... Our Love for God... Our Love for fellow Believers... Our Love for those who abuse and persecute us...
- From a Christian point of view, “Growing in Love FOR God” must be reflected in “Growing in Love FOR Others”

1 JOHN 4:7-8 “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love [others] does not know God, because God IS love.”

1 JOHN 5:1 “Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him.”

- However wonderful this congregation has been, however faithful, Paul prays that their love may abound more and more.

WITH KNOWLEDGE AND ALL DISCERNMENT...

Vs 9c “With Knowledge and All Discernment...”

No matter what the “world” says, “Love is NOT Blind”... We Choose love KNOWING the cost, and regardless of how it will change things Godly Love does not ignore but is willing to Accept... w/o Judgment

Therefore, as an essential element of “Abounding in Love,” Paul's Prayer includes the elements of “Knowledge” and “Discernment”

- “Knowledge...” [Epignosis] – Refined Knowledge – “to elevate or reveal more to what has been seen / heard / learned...”
 - Abounding in Love must be accompanied by a “refining” of what we see or know about the object of our Love...
 - Paul's admonitions about “True Godly Love” in 1 COR 13: 1-13 is an “ongoing process”
 - Because we are “limited in what we can see and know” we NEED God's help to Love as He has intended and is needed
- “Discernment...” [Aesthesia] – Conscious awareness of what can be recognized and to respond to accordingly – [An]Aesthesia
 - ALL... This is not a superficial “awareness” of the need but based upon the “knowledge” one has gained
 - Our eyes are “open” and our senses are attuned... Our thinking is engaged, and our reasoning is adjusted to what God has revealed to us about “How we are to Respond”
 - We enter THIS Love KNOWINGLY and PURPOSEFULLY

SO THAT YOU MAY DEMONSTRATE...

The translation of this word by “approve” can lead to a misunderstanding...

- “May Approve...” – [Dokimazo] – To act upon what has been tested as to its effectiveness / productivity / ability to accomplish
 - “May...” expresses the verb form that THIS is the “goal” of the desired “Knowing and Discernment”
 - Better translated “may demonstrate” ... It is NOT just that we “Love” as God Loves... BUT that we “demonstrate” that Love to God and to Others...
 - Love that is Not acted upon is NOT True Godly Love...
 - Love that is NOT acted upon “appropriately” does NOT accomplish God's desire

THIS is Paul's desire as he prays...

- NOT just once but time and again
- EVERY day and EVERY situation is an Opportunity to “LOVE”