



PHILIPPIANS: RESURRECTED LIFE

Partnership & Prayer

Discussion Questions:

1) This week, we begin a sermon series on the book of Philippians. Take a moment to read the scripture slowly. **Philippians 1:1-11 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons: 2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 I thank my God every time I remember you. 4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. 7 It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. 8 God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. 9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, 10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may 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.** As you read the scripture, consider what resonates with you in your current season of life. What aspects of this scripture speak into you and your journey?

2) One beautiful theme that weaves through six of these eleven verses is the theme of relationships and Christian love. As you spend time with the scripture, let the warmth of these verses envelop you. Can you identify the six verses that radiate with the essence of relationships and love? Discuss these six ideas.

In the sermon, I said that, "life in Christ should be strengthened by deep relationships that are characterized by love." This passage reveals the deep relationships between Paul and Timothy as well as between Paul and the church in Philippi. In verse 6, Paul reveals that whenever he thinks about the Philippians, he thanks God for them. In verse 8, he shares that he longs for them with the affection of Christ. Do you have people in your life that you thank God for every time you think of them? Name some of these people and share why they mean so much to you. You get bonus points if the people are in your community group!

3) One of the reasons Paul feels close to the Philippians is revealed in verses 4-5.

Philippians 1: 4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. What does it mean for Paul to have the Philippians as his, “partners in the Gospel?”

One of the most exciting things about life in Christ is that we have the privilege of partnering with God and with others, to do His work here on earth. Consider these verses:

1 Corinthians 1:9 God will do this, for He is faithful to do what He says, and He has invited you into partnership with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. In what ways do you think you are called to partner with Jesus?

We are also called to partner with other Christians to understand our faith more fully and grow in our relationship with Christ. Consider this verse: **Philemon 1:6 I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share in Christ.** Are there individuals in your life with whom you are partnering with for *their* growth? What about those who *support you* in your journey? How vital is this to you? What changes might you need to make to incorporate this practice into your life?

4) As Paul greets the Philippians, he reveals some important thoughts about life in Christ. He shares that God will not give up on us. He will not abandon us no matter how bad we mess up or how far away He seems. God will continue to work in us to help us understand and grow. **Philippians 1:6 being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.** What jumps out to you from this verse?

Have you ever felt or feared that God might abandon you? Have you distanced yourself from Him? Take a moment to paraphrase Philippians 1:6 in your own words and share your version with your group.