



LIFE CHANGING
PRAYERS

“INFLUENCE” // Philippians 1:9-11

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INTRODUCTION

Here we see one of the Apostle Paul’s “life changing prayers.” In this case, his prayer is for Christ followers living in the city of Philippi...and it is most certainly a prayer for INFLUENCE. As such, there are specific lessons we can learn and apply from this simple-yet-profound prayers that increase our positive, Christ-centered influence.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Read Philippians 1:9-11.**
2. In **v9**, Paul prays that their “love may abound,” which means to increase, or grow. If we want to be influential as Christ followers, then we must be growing in love – for God and for others. As a study tool, **read 1 Corinthians 3:4-7 and Mark 12:30-31**. From the 1 Cor passage, share 3 examples of how Christ has shown you that kind of love. Then share 3 examples of how another person has shown you that kind of love. Lastly, share at least one way you can grow in your love for God, and for your another person (i.e. your “neighbors”) in the next month.
 - a. Explain why reading your bible is such an important part of growing in knowledge, depth of insight, and even love.
3. In **v10**, Paul prays for their love to grow “so that that may be able to discern what is best...” Scholars point to the obvious fact that Paul is making a link to an important area of application: decisions. Our decision-making is very influential in our lives, for good and for bad. To grow in positive, Christ-centered influence, we must make wise decisions! Tyler posited that “The Best Question Ever” to use as a “lens” for decision-making is to ask ourselves, “What is the WISE thing to do?” It sounds simple, yet it really works.
 - a. Share an example of you or someone close to you making a very wise decision...and share the results.
 - b. Share an example of when you or someone close to you made an unwise decision...and share the results.
 - c. Why is the 3-part grid so important and applicable? (“In light of 1) your past experiences, 2) your present realities, and 3) your future hopes and dreams...what is the WISE thing to do?”

- i. Remember the "NOW and LATER" illustration? Share an example of how "Now affects later."
4. **Read Proverbs 2:1-8.** Why is "pursuing" wisdom such an important part of living an influential, Christ-centered life?
 - a. Explain 3 different types of "environments" where you can easily/successfully pursue wisdom. What can/will you do to place yourself in those environments more often?
5. **Read John 15:5.** The word "abide" (often "remain" is used in the NIV translation") means *to spend time with, to walk with, to learn from, to marinate in, to be close to, etc.*
 - a. What are 2 ways that you can be abiding in Christ...and know that He will produce fruit in and through your life?
 - b. What kinds of things get in the way of you abiding in Christ?
 - c. What are some shortcuts we are tempted to take in order to produce fruit?
 - d. Read **Galatians 5:22-23.**
6. How has your LOVE grown through the years? Be specific.
7. How has your WISDOM grown through the years? Be specific.
8. How have you seen FRUIT in each others' lives through the years? Be specific.

FOR MEMORY

Abide in me and you will bear much fruit. Apart from me, you can do nothing.
John 15:5

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

Pray for the person on your right. Include praising God for your answers to #6, 7 and 8...then lift new prayer requests for INFLUENCE to your Heavenly Father.