



**Grace Life Church**  
*of Dallas*

The doctrines of grace, the life of the Spirit, to the glory of God

**Love abounding  
with knowledge and discernment  
Philippians 1:9**

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# Philippians 1:9-11

*9 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.*

# Philippians 1:9

*And it is my prayer that your love  
may abound more and more with  
knowledge and all discernment*

# *And it is my prayer*

First a reminder again that we must be praying

We know the Bible is inspired by God (2 Tim 3:16)

- So when you see prayers in scripture, you want to let them shape your prayer life (focus)

## **So what is Paul praying for?**

-Christian maturity (sanctification)

**-Colossians 1:28-29** *That we may present everyone mature in Christ. 29 For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that He powerfully works within me.*

**-Galatians 4:19** *My little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!*

-Is Christ-likeness (maturity) our life focus? (Does our life confirm or contradict our answer?)

# *And it is my prayer*

*That your love may abound more and more*

Why begin with love?

- Love for God and others is the sum of the law & prophets (**Matt 22:4**)
- Biblical love is the greatest evidence in spiritual maturity (**1 Cor. 13:1-3**)
- The love Paul speaks of is Biblical (Divine) Love
  - “*God is love*” **1 John 4:8**
  - “*Whoever loves has been born of God*” **1 John 4:7**
  - “*Love is from God*” **1 John 4:7**

We must understand this biblical divine love

- Not humanistic love-Based on emotions, feelings, or the other person
- It is a decision; a matter of the will

**Romans 5:8** *but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

**Romans 5:5** *God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us*

- Our love for others is not based on how “lovable they are”
- Our love for others is based on the gospel (God’s love towards us in Christ)  
**1 John 4:11**

# *And it is my prayer*

*That your love abound more and more*

- Paul assumes they have love (test of assurance 1 John 2:9-10)
- His prayer is that it abound more and more (present tense-continual)
- Greatest demonstration of this love is “*laying down life for his friend*” (John 15:13)
- Being supernatural love it crosses race, culture, age & economic barriers (Gal 3:28 in Christ we are all one-Jew, Gentile, Male, Female)

*That your love abound more and more in knowledge & discernment*

- Knowledge (*epignōsis*)-correct/true knowledge (Word of God-Bible)
- Biblical love is not humanistic emotionalism but rooted in biblical truth
- Biblical love **comes** from a revelation of truth and **grows** from a deeper revelation of truth
  - True love is not unengaged robots following commands but willfully engaged Christians who have experienced the love of God
- How does this work?
  - The scriptures as a whole point to Jesus Christ and the gospel (Luke 24:13-32, 2 Cor 1:20)
  - So as we grow in knowledge (truth) of Jesus and the gospel we are compelled, encouraged and empowered to love God and others
  - Truth is not an end to itself, but a means to know and reveal God (relational)

# *And it is my prayer, that your love abound more and more in knowledge*

Implications:

- Genuine love will always be in accord with biblical truth
- A growing in knowledge should manifest in an abounding in love towards God and others
- Doctrine does not divide, it unites true believers
  - A church built on truth and growing in truth, Lord willing will be growing in love towards God, church and the lost

Although we need God to act (John 15:5), we have a great responsibility in our love abounding more and more

# *And it is my prayer*

*That your love abound more and more in knowledge and **discernment***

- Not just knowledge (truth) for knowledge sake but truth applied
- It is perceiving knowledge (truth) in such a way that it produces a way of life (the living of life in light of truth)
- What a waste of life it would be to grow in biblical truth without discernment (proper perception-bringing about a new way of life)

This is why Paul prays for the church in Ephesus *“I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, 17that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe”* (Eph 1:16-19)

- When the eyes of our hearts are enlightened through the Word by the power of the Spirit, granting a greater revelation in knowledge of Him, so that we know what is the hope to which He has called us, the riches of His glorious inheritance, and the power made available to us, we cast all fear and self-worry aside and lay our lives down for one another
- **GOD IS GLORIFIED IN THIS**