

## PRAYING FOR PARTNERS Philippians 1:1-11

Dateline Philippi, about 63 AD. (The most Roman city other than Rome itself)

1. Paul's holy "hello" (v.1-2).
  - a. Paul presented himself **humbly** (v.1).
  - b. Paul presented his partner **equally** (v.1).
  - c. They presented themselves **honestly** (doulos).
2. Positive proofs of growth and progress (v.3-11).  
How can I know if I am growing and maturing in my Christian walk?
  - a. Evidence of growth shows by what **occupies your mind** (v.3-6).
    - i. He was **thankful** for every **memory** of them (v.3).
    - ii. He was **prayerful** at every remembrance of them (v.4).
    - iii. He was thankful for their **fellowship** with him (v.5).
    - iv. He was confident of their **future** (v.6; 2:13).

- b. Evidence of growth is discovered by the **treasures** in your heart (v.7-8).
  - i. Thinking of them gave him **comfort** in his chains (v.7). Life's blessings are not objects and possessions. They are the people with whom you serve God and one another.
  - ii. Thinking of them gave him **endurance** in his suffering (v.8). To find out if you are growing in grace - examine what your heart treasures most.
3. Evidence of growth is lived out in the **subjects** of your prayers (v.9-11).
  - a. **Abounding** love (v.9).
  - b. **Knowledgeable** love (v.9).
  - c. **Discerning** love (v.9-10).

Are you thankful? Are you prayerful? Are you a partner in the gospel? Are you praying for knowledge about growing in love toward others? Are you fruitful? Is there evidence in your habits that you belong to God?

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