

Series: Standfast In the Lord

# LOVE MAY ABOUND IN KNOWLEDGE PHILIPPIANS 1:9-11

Text: Philippians 1:9

## **Philippians 1:9**

<sup>9</sup> And this I pray, that your **love may abound** yet more and more **in knowledge** and *in* all judgment;

Introduction:

Paul's desire for the spiritual development of the believers under his care was seen not only in his preaching, teaching, and writing, but also in his prayer life.

He prayed that their love may abound more and more in knowledge and in all judgment.

In Ephesians he assured his readers:

## ***Ephesians 1:16-18***

<sup>16</sup> *Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;* <sup>17</sup> *That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:*

<sup>18</sup> *The eyes of your understanding being enlightened;*

*that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,*

Note again he prayed that God would give them wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him or the Lord.

Later in that letter he stated:

***Ephesians 3:14-19***

*<sup>14</sup> For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup> Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, <sup>16</sup> That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; <sup>17</sup> That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup> May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; <sup>19</sup> And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.*

We again see the desire of Paul was that these believers would grow spiritually so that they might be able to stand fast in the Lord.

Note another example of this in Colossians.

His great desire and prayer for the Colossians was that they “walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

***Colossians 1:10***

*<sup>10</sup> That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;*

Note the words increasing in knowledge of God.

If we are going to stand fast in the Lord then are going to have to know the Lord and our knowledge of Him must continually increase.

In this text we see five things that Paul prayed for on behalf of the Philippians for their growth in godliness so that they would be able to stand fast.

Remember the church at Philippi was a church that suffered with poverty and persecution but regardless of the circumstances stood fast.

Note the things that Paul prayed for:

Sermon Content:

# 1. LOVE (VS. 9)

## ***Philippians 1:9***

*<sup>9</sup> And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;*

### A. Godly love is divine

Paul asked God to provide the Philippians with more love that only comes from Him.

### B. Godly love is decisive

This love is not based on feelings, but is a conscious, intentional choice to be kind.

### C. Godly love is dynamic

It has the ability to abound and always increases in character and humble service.

### D. Godly love is discerning

Not only did Paul pray about their Love but note secondly:

Having made known of the priority of love in verse 9 Paul continues his discussion regarding their growth so that they might stand fast.

## 2. DISCERNMENT (VS. 10)

### ***Philippians 1:10***

<sup>10</sup> *That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;*

Understand:

A deep love for God results in a desire to obey the Lord because we desire to please Him not just out of duty.

Obedience that's motivated by love not only becomes the believer's supreme objective but also their supreme pleasure and satisfaction.

Note the word approve. That word means to discern.

Paul's prayer was that they know or discern the things that is excellent.

Again that comes as a result of loving the Lord with our whole being.

### ***Matthew 12:30***

<sup>30</sup> *He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.*

### ***Luke 10:27***

<sup>27</sup> *And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy*

*God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.*

Note a third thing that Paul prayed for; for the Philippians.

### **3. INTEGRITY (VS. 10)**

***Philippians 1:10***

<sup>10</sup> *That ye may approve things that are excellent; **that ye may be sincere and without offence** till the day of Christ;*

A third area of growth is the area of integrity.

To have this integrity is to be sincere without offense.

It doesn't mean that there will not be offense but the motive is not to be offensive.

It's speaking about our testimony, and not tarnishing the testimony of Christ or the church.

It speaks of being led into sin.

Our love for the Lord and the discernment He gives help us in this matter.

Note:

## **1 Corinthians 10:32**

<sup>32</sup> Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:

Note the example of Paul:

## **Acts 23:1**

<sup>1</sup> And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have **lived in all good conscience before God** until this day.

## **Acts 24:16**

<sup>16</sup> And herein do I exercise myself, to have always **a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.**

## **2 Corinthians 1:12**

<sup>12</sup> For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.

## **2 Timothy 1:3**

<sup>3</sup> I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;

Paul's prayer was that they would Love the Lord, Have Discernment, and Walk in Integrity not being led into sin and ruining their testimony.

Note another desire of Paul for the Philippians:

## **4. GOOD WORKS (VS. 11)**

### ***Philippians 1:11***

*<sup>11</sup> Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.*

Paul refers to these works as fruits of righteousness.

The fruit that should be produced in the lives of the believer are found in Galatians.

### ***Galatians 5:22-23***

*<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, <sup>23</sup> Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

Again we must remember the fruit of righteousness comes through the Lord – it's the "Fruit of the Spirit."

I hope you note the order of these things.

Love, Discernment, Integrity, Good Works.

Each of these are the result of the previous thing.



All of these hinge on our love for the Lord.

Let's quickly look at one final desire that Paul prayed about.

## **5. THE GLORY OF GOD (VS. 11)**

### ***Philippians 1:11***

*<sup>11</sup> Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.*

The supreme motive and results of the life that will love the Lord, have the discernment of God, walks in integrity, and who is filled with the fruit of righteousness is for the glory and praise of God.

None of these things mentioned and that Paul prayed for was so that someone might say there is someone spiritual.

Close:

Our theme this year is Stand Fast in the Lord.

That will only be possible if these things are present in our lives.

Do we Love the Lord Supremely?

Do we have the Discernment regarding the things that are excellent?

Are we walking in Integrity?

Are we allowing the Spirit to produce the fruit of the Spirit in our lives?

Is all that we do for the Glory of God?

Are we standing fast in the Lord?