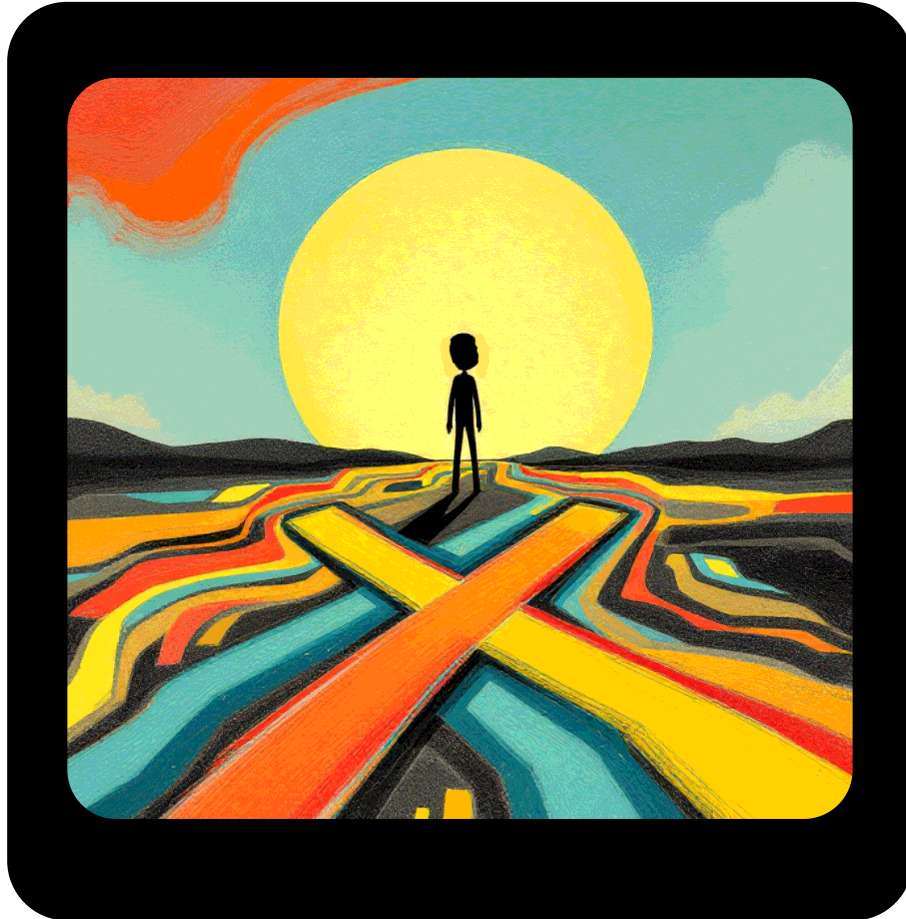


LIVING TO THE GLORY AND PRAISE OF GOD



HOW DO WE ACTUALLY DO THAT?

- Follow the clear, biblical path

WHERE DO WE BEGIN?

- Pray that our love will abound more and more

SETTING THE TONE WITH DEEPLY FELT COMPASSION

1. Paul felt it was crucial to set the tone of this teaching by communicating the depth of his affection for them, 1:8.

- (Philippians 1:8 ESV) **For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.**

Witness ... μάρτυς [martus] – someone who sees an event and reports what happened.

Affection – a deeply felt compassion; bowels regarded by the Hebrews as the seat of the tenderer affections; a heart in which mercy resides.

- A. It was crucial for them to understand the specific context of affection for receiving this instruction.
- B. God is witness to how Paul feels about them because God has observed what is going on.
- C. Paul must have felt this emphasis on his affection for them was necessary to prepare them to receive what he was about to say.
- D. This was a good, healthy church, but not a church without its problems.

Looking ahead in the letter ... They needed to be warned about fearing their opponents (1:28), acting from selfish ambition (2:3), grumbling and disputing (2:14) and possibly most glaring of all ... they had an ongoing conflict between two faithful, prominent women in the church.

- E. So they needed to hear and heed Paul's words.

OUR LOVE NEEDS TO ABOUND MORE AND MORE

2. Paul takes this request to God—that their love will abound more and more, 1:9a.

- (Philippians 1:9a ESV) And **it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more.**

Love ... ἀγάπη [agape] – a sacrificial love that determines to honor and seek the best for its object. A love that gives itself up for the object of its love.

A. God gave his only Son.

- (John 3:16a ESV) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son.

B. Christ gave himself up.

- (Ephesians 5:25 ESV) Husbands, love your wives, **as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.**

C. There is no greater love than giving ourselves up and laying down our lives both literally and figuratively.

- (John 15:13 ESV) **Greater love has no one than this**, that someone **lay down his life** for his friends.

D. Love abounding more and more cultivates humility and defeats pride and so is essential for righteous living that brings glory and praise to God.

Abound ... περισσεύω [perisseuo] – to abound; to exist in large quantities; a thing which overflows.

E. Loving as God loves is the ultimate act of submission to God and God blesses this person by filling him or her with the fruit of righteousness.

See 1:11 ... More on that later.

OUR LOVE NEEDS TO ABOUND WITH THE RIGHT INFORMATION

- (Philippians 1:9–11 ESV) 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.**

3. Paul prays that their love will abound in two very specific, interconnected ways—with knowledge and all discernment, 1:9.

- (Philippians 1:9 ESV) And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, **with knowledge** and all discernment.

Interconnected describes a state where two or more things are mutually linked, related, or dependent on one another.

A. Their love needed to abound more and more with precise and correct knowledge.

Knowledge ... επίγνωσις [epignosis] – precise and correct knowledge; coming to understand something clearly and distinctly or as true and valid.

B. Their love needed to abound more and more with discernment.

- (Philippians 1:9 ESV) And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge **and all discernment.**

Discernment ... αἴσθησις [aisthesis] perception, not only by the senses but by the intellect; the mental ability to understand and discriminate, especially as acquired through experience.

4. What specifically is this precise, correct, perceptive knowledge that we need to help direct the course of our abounding love?

This knowledge must correspond to reality.

This knowledge must be beyond and independent of human perception or belief.

This knowledge must be able to renew our minds.

A. The word of God is the only viable source for this type of knowledge.

B. The word of God transcends the finite, temporal, psychological boundaries of earth living and paints the only perspective of reality in ultra-vivid detail.

To transcend means to go beyond the limits; to rise above ordinary boundaries and expectations.

- (Hebrews 11:3 ESV) By faith we understand **that the universe was created by the word of God**, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.
- (2 Peter 3:5 NLT) They deliberately forget **that God made the heavens long ago by the word of his command**, and he brought the earth out from the water and surrounded it with water.
- (2 Peter 3:7 ESV) But **by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire**, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.
- (Psalm 33:6 NLT) **The Lord merely spoke, and the heavens were created**. He breathed the word, and all the stars were born.

C. The word of God is the one source that can provide the precise, accurate knowledge that we need.

- (John 17:17 ESV) Sanctify them in the truth; **your word is truth**.
- (Psalm 119:160 ESV) **The sum of your word is truth**, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.
- (John 14:6a ESV) Jesus said to him, “**I am the way, and the truth, and the life.**”

D. The word of God is able to transform us by renewing our minds so that we are able to know what is good and pleasing and perfect in God's eyes.

- (Romans 12:2 ESV) Do not be conformed to this world, **but be transformed by the renewal of your mind**, that by testing **you may discern what is the will of God**, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

E. Love abounding more and more with knowledge is a

completely different concept from merely possessing knowledge which leads to pride.

- (1 Corinthians 8:1–3 ESV) Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” **This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up.** 2 If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. 3 **But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.**

F. To live as we should live we need to be filled with the knowledge of the will of God.

- (Colossians 1:9–10 ESV) And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, **asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will** in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 **so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord**, fully pleasing to him: **bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.**

G. To live as we should live we need to be filled with the knowledge of who God is.

- (John 17:3 ESV) And this is eternal life, **that they know you, the only true God**, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.
- (2 Peter 1:2 ESV) May grace and peace **be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.**
- (2 Peter 1:3 ESV) His divine power **has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us** to his own glory and excellence.
- (Philippians 3:8a ESV) Indeed, I count everything as loss **because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.**

SO THAT WE CAN MAKE THE RIGHT DECISIONS

5. The effect of our love abounding is an increased ability in judging what is right and best in life, 1:10.

- (Philippians 1:10 ESV) **So that you may approve what is excellent**, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.
- A. The fruit of love abounding more and more with knowledge and discernment is better decision making based on a more God-given perspective of life.
- B. This love which is being refined by precise and correct knowledge makes a person skillful in determining priorities and making the best, wisest decisions with his life.

- (Hebrews 5:14 NLT) Solid food is for those who are mature, **who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.**

SO THAT WE MAY LIVE GUILT FREE AS THE CHILDREN OF GOD

6. Love abounding more and more will purify our lives as we live in view of the day of Christ, 1:10.

- (Philippians 1:10 ESV) **So that** you may approve what is excellent, **and so** be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.
- (1 John 3:2–3 ESV) Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; **but we know that when he appears we shall be like him**, because we shall see him as he is. 3 **And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.**

SO THAT WE MAY BE FILLED WITH THE FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

7. The cumulative effect of the righteous work of love abounding more and more in our lives is that we will be filled with the fruit of righteousness, 1:11a.

- (Philippians 1:11 ESV) ... **filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ**, to the glory and praise of God.
- (Colossians 1:10 ESV) So as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: **bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.**

A. Being filled with the fruit of righteousness is part of God's spiritual process that comes through Jesus Christ.

B. Love yields love in our decision making process as we know God in more depth and make decisions in the context of the love of God.

C. We abide in Christ and live a righteous lifestyle of love and God abides in us.

- (John 15:5 ESV) I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, **he it is that bears much fruit**, for apart from me you can do nothing.
- (John 15:8 ESV) **By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit** and so prove to be my disciples.
- (John 15:9–11 ESV) As the Father has

loved me, so have I loved you. **Abide in my love.** 10 **If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love**, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. 11 **These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you**, and **that your joy may be full.**

- (Galatians 5:22a ESV) But **the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy ...**

CONCLUSION: HAS LIVING TO THE GLORY OF GOD BECOME YOUR DAILY REALITY?

- (Philippians 1:11 ESV) Filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, **to the glory and praise of God.**

I. We need to follow the clear, biblical path.

II. That path begins as a prayer for our love to abound more and more with knowledge and discernment.

III. That path ends at glory and praise to God.

A. So for now we rejoice at trials that last for a little while and test the genuineness of our faith.

B. And we wait for the revealing of Jesus Christ where our genuine faith will result in praise and glory and honor to him.

C. But while we wait ... we rejoice ... we rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory.

- (1 Peter 1:6–8 ESV) **In this you rejoice**, though now **for a little while**, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 **so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.** 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory.