

## THE PRAYERS OF PAUL

### Study Questions Week 4 – Philippians

1. Read and meditate on Philippians 1:3-6. Are you confident that God has begun a good work in you? If so, are you confident that He will complete that work in you? Do you see evidence in your life of God's work in your life? If you are not confident that He has begun a good work in you, what is your concern? Contact a more mature sister in Christ and talk with her about that.
  
2. John MacArthur said, "nothing is more definitive of true spirituality than the nature of a person's prayer life... The measure of a person's spirituality is not how well they conform to the demand to pray, but how internally compelled they are to pray, simply because their passion for others in God's Kingdom is so strong." How do you measure up to that statement? Are you passionate for others in the Kingdom? Are you passionate about their spiritual needs? Is there anything you need to change after thinking on this statement?
  
3. Read Philippians 1:9-11. Paul prays for 5 essentials of godliness for the Philippian believers in 1:9-11: love, excellence, integrity, good works, and glory. Do you struggle with any of these essentials? If so, what can you pray or ask others to pray for on your behalf? If you are doing well with these essentials, is there anyone in your Christian / church family that you know is struggling with any of these? How could you pray for them?
  
4. In the lesson, we talked about having integrity which means not compromising. We walked; through John MacArthur's description of the subtle way that we get conformed to the world. The steps were:
  - a. Accommodation – You just tolerate the world. You stop being shocked by worldly values, sin, wickedness.
  - b. Legitimization – You accept it as normal.
  - c. Assimilation – You personally begin to cooperate with skewed values by saying nothing.
  - d. Participation – You are personally involved in attitudes and actions, even if they're at arm's length. You don't mind it anymore.

- e. Amalgamation – Your values are so fused with the world’s that you can’t tell the difference.

Think about various issues, values, situations in our world today. Are there any areas where you are becoming conformed to the world: LGBTQ activity, especially related to “Christians” confirming these activities, feminism, abortion, racial justice – Black Lives Matter, women preachers... For one or more of these issues, try to assess which steps you have taken down the road of being conformed to the world. Do you understand the Biblical view on each of these issues? Where might you need to correct your thinking to conform to a Christian worldview?

- 5. Read Philippians 4:6 and 7. Do you struggle with anxiety, fear, worry? These struggles indicate a lack of trust in God’s wisdom, sovereignty, or power? Can you identify the weakness in your faith that causes you to stumble in these areas? How can you overcome anxiety, fear, or worry when it begins to rise up in your heart? Read Romans 12:1-2 and Philippians 4:8-9 and develop a plan for battling these issues.
  
- 6. In the study questions from Week 2, #4 was: Ask God to put someone on your heart (from our church) for whom you do not now pray. Commit to praying for that Christian (or Christians) faithfully. After you have been at it for a few weeks or a few months, tell the person you are doing so – and then keep on doing so.

Has God put someone on your heart? Have you begun praying for that person(s)? If you haven’t started yet, go ahead and begin this week.

Resources: John MacArthur sermons, Joy Rules – Essentials for Growth in Godliness Parts 1A and 1B: <https://www.sermonaudio.com/search.asp?speakerWithinSource=&subsetCat=&subsetItem=&mediateype=&includekeywords=&exactverse=&keyword=Joy+Rules&keyworddesc=Joy+Rules&currsection=&AudioOnly=false&SeriesOnly=true&SourceID=johnmacarthur>

Note: If you would like a copy of my manuscript, e-mail me at [ruthbloesch@hotmail.com](mailto:ruthbloesch@hotmail.com).