

FRESH FAITH



I am
a
citizen
of
heaven.
Phil. 3:20

PHILIPPIANS

Fresh Faith

Philippians

Written by | Brenda Leavenworth

Graphic design | Faith Wake

Cover artwork | Rebecca Young

Editors | Kim Thompson | Denise Cooper

Copyright 2020 | All rights reserved

Getting Started

Learning how to study the Bible for ourselves is one of the most important skills we can acquire as Christians. This proficiency assists us in developing as true disciples of Christ, equipping us for life. Knowing and understanding God's Word and intentionally putting it into action gives us the ability to walk daily in *Fresh Faith* according to His will.

26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

~John 14:26~

Here is what you will need:

- **Prayer:** Pray before each lesson. Ask God to reveal His truth through His Word and ask for His help in understanding and applying it to your life.
- **The Bible:** The *New King James Version (NKJV)* will be used for this study; however, we also recommend the *New Living Translation (NLT)*, *New American Standard Bible (NASB)*, and the *English Standard Version (ESV)* to aid in your understanding and comprehension.
- **Online Bible study helps:** Both, blueletterbible.org and preceptaustin.org are great study resources. To view a quick Blue Letter Bible tutorial, visit www.youtube.com/reliancechurch "BLB tutorial".
- **Live Teachings:** Teachings will broadcast live every Thursday at 9:30am, 11:30am, and 6:45 pm, between April 23rd–May 21st at: www.reliancechurch.org/livestream
- **Zoom Small Groups:** Our discussion groups will meet using Zoom immediately following each livestream teaching (above). You can get the APP or go to www.Zoom.us and sign up for free. Instructions and necessary meeting links for your specific group will be emailed to you directly.

What you can expect:

The questions in this study are designed to aid you in learning how to study the Bible on your own. The questions are generally centered around observing, interpreting, and applying the scriptures. However, questions will not cover every theme, truth, or subject in each chapter. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you into all truth and take you where He chooses. Our hope is that this study creates a hunger and thirst for God's Word that will inspire you to dig deeper.

Note: All scripture references are in the NKJV unless otherwise indicated.

Each lesson includes:

- **Homework:** Days 1–5.
- **Focused Homework:** For those unable to complete the entire lesson, please give your attention to the “focused homework question,” (**ONE** question per day).
- **Challenge:** The challenge section will include 1 to 3 questions, for those who wish to dig deeper.

Introduction to Philippians

Philippians portrays Jesus Christ, our joy (1:26). This message of joy transcends all that life has to offer here on earth. It teaches us how to experience joy even in the midst of suffering, by drawing on the person, work, and strength of Jesus Christ. There is joy in our salvation, His righteousness, and His will, as we surrender our lives to Jesus and draw upon His power and provision for all things.

Paul, the apostle, is identified as the author (1:1) of this love letter, along with his collaborator and “son in the faith” Timothy, writing to the saints of the church in Philippi. The epistle was written in approximately AD 61, when Paul was under house arrest in Rome (Acts 28:114–31).¹ Paul’s initial visit to Philippi, in Macedonia, was the result of a vision he received of “a man of Macedonia” (Acts 16). Because Philippi was a leading city of the area, this made it a likely place for the gospel to go forth.² The Philippian church, which consisted of mostly Gentiles, was the first church birthed in Eastern Europe. Paul sent this letter back to the Philippian church with Epaphroditus who came from Philippi to give Paul a financial gift.

Although Paul was under house arrest, Christ made him a free man. He dedicated his life to serving the Lord as long as he lived. This love letter was written to remind the saints in Philippi, and now us, to “rejoice in the Lord always.” Paul mentions the Savior’s name approximately 40 times and uses words such as “joy” and “rejoice” more than a dozen. Can we say, like Paul, “For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain?” (1:21). Here, Paul depicts the humility of Jesus as an example to all. He shows us what a consistent Christian life looks like by remaining in service to Jesus Christ through every season of life, and to finish our race with endurance, longing to be with Jesus eternally while at the same time serving Him

¹ Mears, H. (1953). *What the bible is all about*. Tyndall House Publishers: Carol Stream, IL.

² Geisler, N. (2007). *A popular survey of the new testament*. Baker Books Publishing: Grand Rapids, MI.

FRESH FAITH-PHILIPPIANS

wholeheartedly on earth as long as God determines. While Paul remains sheltered-in-place, he dedicates his time and energy to the spread of the good news of the gospel to those who are lost and to the believers needing encouragement and leadership. His movements may have been restricted, but the gospel is not.

Lesson One**Ch. I****Philippians I**

Note: Because this is a digital study, you will need a notebook, notepad or the like to journal your answers. You may print out the study as well if you like.

Day One: Homework

Read the entire chapter once or twice through as one who received a letter from a dear friend.

Then re-read Philippians I: 1–6.

1. Paul wrote to the believers in Philippi. Who else did he address this letter to (v. 1)?
2. What was Paul's attitude towards the people he wrote the letter to (v. 3–4)?
3. Define the word *joy* using a Bible dictionary or Strong's Concordance. Then, give a few synonyms and antonyms:

❖ Definition–

- Synonyms–
- Antonyms–

4. Verse five tells us what he was thankful for. What is it? What do you notice about the faithfulness of these believers in Philippi (v. 5)?

5. (focused homework question) Think of a person who exemplifies the joy of the Lord to you. What specifically do they do or not do? Why is a person who is joyful a good witness to the grace of God?

Day One: Challenge

1. Read Acts 16 and note what stands out to you.

Ch. 1

2. Find and share something about the city of Philippi. How did it get its name?

3. How does verse six speak to you personally?

Day Two: Homework

Read Philippians 1:7–11.

1. In what ways did the Philippian church show great support to Paul (v. 7)?

2. What does it mean to be a partaker in the gospel of grace (v. 7)?

3. Paul has a great desire to pray for these believers. What does he request on their behalf (9–11)?

4. (focused homework question) What reason does Paul give for making such requests and what will the results be (9–11)?

5. Personal: Paul's desire was for believers to live "sincere and without offense," what does that mean to you? How can this be accomplished in your life?

Day Two: Challenge

1. Choose two words you are unfamiliar with from our text today and give definitions. Then, list a few synonyms and antonyms.

2. Discernment (or judgment) means to have perception, not only by senses, but by intellect.

Look up the following verses and note how each speaks to you on this topic:

❖ Proverbs 1:22-

❖ Proverb 2:10-

❖ Hebrews 5:14-

❖ Ephesians 5:17-

❖ Colossians 1:9-

Ch. 1**Day Three: Homework**

Read Philippians 1:12–18.

1. Read Acts 22. What do you learn about Paul from this former account?
2. **(focused homework question) Look up the following verses and share how they might relate to our text today:**

❖ Acts 8:4-

❖ Romans 8:28-

❖ 2 Timothy 2:9-

❖ 1 Peter 4:13, 16-

3. Personal: Paul knew the Lord was at work using his chains for the furtherance of the gospel (v. 12). What circumstance is God using in your life that could potentially further the gospel?

How does your witness play a part in this?

4. Would you describe yourself as someone who speaks “boldly” about the Lord to others (13–14)? Explain why or why not.

Day Three: Challenge

1. After some study, explain what Paul means in verses 15–18?
2. Some preach Christ with ulterior motives. Having a competitive spirit is detrimental to the gospel. Discuss how competitiveness seeps into the church today:
3. Personal: Is there anyone who you would like to see fail (be honest)? Is it possible this is based on competition?

Day Four: Homework

Read Philippians 1:19–26.

Ch. I

1. Describe Paul's hopeful faith (v. 19).
2. Paul set his expectations for his future. What assurance does he declare in verses 20-21?
What affect does this belief have on his future as a follower of Christ? How does this proclamation speak to you today?
3. What is Paul's struggle and what is his conclusion according to verses 22-25?
- 4. (focused homework question) What was Paul's mission regarding these believers (v. 25)?**
5. Personal: What is your mission in life? What is it God wants you to be about right now?

Day Four: Challenge

1. How could Paul be *confident* in knowing God would keep him around (v. 25)?
2. In verse 26, Paul says something interesting. What is it and what does he mean?
3. Look again at verse 19. Paul states that this will work out for his deliverance. It's clear Paul believed it had something to do with the Philippians praying. Do you believe prayer changes circumstances? Explain why or why not.

Day Five: Homework

Read Philippians I: 27-30

- 1. (focused homework question) Verse 27 tells us to let our conduct, or conversation (KJV) be worthy of the good news of Jesus Christ. Another way of saying this is that we should conduct ourselves as a citizen of heaven. How does one behave as a citizen?**
2. In the same verse (v. 27) Paul tells us we are to fight together for our faith. Why is unity of believers so important when representing heavenly citizenship?

Ch. I

3. Personal: Just as Paul was not terrified by his enemies, we as Christians we are not to be terrified of our adversaries (v. 28). What current adversaries are we facing, and what does our confidence in Christ show our enemies?
4. Why is it a privilege for us to suffer for Christ (v. 29)?
5. Paul suffered greatly in his circumstance while simultaneously exhibiting joy and producing lasting fruit. How does his example speak to you in your current circumstance?

Day Five: Challenge

1. Personal: In this season of your life, what threatens your joy and hinders your production of spiritual fruit?
2. Read Galatians 5:16–25. How is the Lord speaking to you through these verses? What is the sign (or fruit) of being led by the Spirit (v. 22-23)? Are you are struggling with any of these things today? What remedy does the Lord provide?
3. If the fruits of the spirits (Gal. 5:22-23) are evidence of being led by the spirit, should a believer manifest all of them or is it possible to only manifest one or two but not the others?