

21 DAYS



TETHERED
TO TRUTH



OF PRAYER

MOUNTAIN BROOK COMMUNITY CHURCH

PHILIPPIANS

21 DAYS OF PRAYER

Paul evangelized Philippi on his second missionary journey (Acts 16:12-40). It was a stable, thriving, medium-sized Macedonian town with a rich heritage and distinctive culture. Philippi was largely a Roman colony and was home to numerous retired soldiers. Many, no doubt, could readily envision Paul's imprisonment and supervision by the Roman guard. This is the fourth of Paul's "Prison Epistles" which is why the theme involves joy in the midst of suffering. Although he was suffering, Philippians may be the happiest, most positive and most personal of all Paul's writings and the general attitude was one of gratefulness and encouragement.

There are four theological themes that form the foundation on which Philippians was built. The first, and most important, is about Christian unity that is exemplified through humility. The second theme is about the problem of suffering. Although it offers no clear solution to the age-old question of why God would allow suffering in the world, it does describe the Christian perspective on the experience of suffering from a first hand account. The third theme is the relationship between God's grace and human works. Paul affirms in Philippians that God expects believers to make concrete efforts at obedience, but on the final day, we will not be acquitted on the basis of our obedience but rather on the righteousness that only God gives. The final theme, and least obvious, is the church's relationship to the fallen world around it. Each of these themes were modeled perfectly by Jesus, and Paul uses the example of Christ to encourage the church then and now.

"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Philippians 2:3-11

TETHERED TO TRUTH



MONDAY - PHILIPPIANS 1:3-6

PASSAGE

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Philippians 1:3-6

PRAYER

- Begin your time of prayer by pausing and recognizing the power and presence of God.
- Thank God for the people in your life, and pray specifically for the reasons you are thankful for them.
- Ask God to fill you with joy today because of those people who partner with you in the Gospel.
- Ask God to fill you with His confidence because of the promise that He will complete the work that He began in your life.
- Pray for God to fill you with hope as you look to Christ Jesus.

TRUTH

You can have confidence that God will complete the good work that He began in you through Christ Jesus.

CHALLENGE

May today be marked with thanksgiving because of the work of Christ in your life and those around you. We are so quick to complain because things aren't how they should be, and it doesn't feel fair. Although those feelings are real, through Christ, there is a future reality that God will redeem all things, and He will complete the work that He began in this world and in your life. Although this world is far from perfect, you are near to the Perfect One who who came to make all things new.

TETHERED TO TRUTH



TUESDAY - PHILIPPIANS 1:9-11

PASSAGE

"And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God."

Philippians 1:9-11

PRAYER

- Begin your time of prayer by pausing and recognizing the power and presence of God.
- Pray that your love for God would abound.
- Pray that He would reveal knowledge and depth of insight for the decisions in your life.
- Pray against temptation, and ask for strength to be pure and blameless.
- Ask God to fill you with the fruit of righteousness that only comes through Jesus.
- Pray for God to reveal His glory, and spend some time praising God for all that He has/is doing in your life.

TRUTH

Your ability to discern what is best is found in the knowledge of God that is made known in His abounding love.

CHALLENGE

God, what do you want me to do about _____? You have likely asked this question about all the areas of your life because you need guidance to discern what is best. You want answers, but He wants you. He longs for you to abound in His endless love so that you may be filled with the fruit of righteousness, and over time, your desires become hidden in His. This was modeled by Jesus as He taught the disciples to pray:

"Your kingdom come, Your will be done."

As you pray today, start here and see what God reveals to you about the depth of His love for you.

TETHERED TO TRUTH



WEDNESDAY - PHILIPPIANS 1:19-26

PASSAGE

"For I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again."

Philippians 1:19-26

PRAYER

- Begin your time of prayer by pausing and recognizing the power and presence of God.
- Ask God to give you the courage to honor Christ in all you do today.
- Pray that your labor will be fruitful in the work you do today.
- Pray that you would die to the desires of the flesh and live for the glory of Christ Jesus.

TRUTH

The Holy Spirit gives you power and courage to honor Christ for the glory of God.

CHALLENGE

Each and every day you face the fork in the road where your desires meet the divine will of God. The flesh pulls you like a car out of alignment but through the power of the Spirit you have the courageous choice to die to those desires. It's not easy, but it is necessary for your growth into the likeness of Christ. May the Spirit grant you the courage to pray today as Jesus did in the Garden of Gethsemane, *"nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."*

TETHERED TO TRUTH



THURSDAY - PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

PASSAGE

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:6-7

PRAYER

- Begin your time of prayer by pausing and recognizing the power and presence of God.
- Pray for the things that you are anxious about right now.
- Thank God for the blessing of being able to bring these anxieties to Him.
- Ask God to show you the peace that transcends all understanding.
- Ask that He will guard your heart and mind as new anxieties arise throughout the day.

TRUTH

God meets you in your anxious thoughts and provides a peace that transcends all understanding through His love and presence.

CHALLENGE

It is likely you have seen this verse before on a sympathy card, bumper sticker or embroidered in a frame hanging on the wall of a relative's house. It is so common because it applies to everyone and gives a prescription for the crippling anxiety that so many face. The cure for anxiety is found in a spirit of thanksgiving that is available through prayer and petition. Although true, it is easy to see this verse through the lens of self-help instead of Spirit-led. The four words that precede this passage are important to understand its fullness, *"The Lord is near."* Prayer removes your anxiety because it draws you into the loving arms of your Father. It provides perspective and reminds you that God is greater than your biggest fear, and His love is deeper than any doubt. God is with you now, so turn to Him to experience the peace that only He can give.

TETHERED TO TRUTH



FRIDAY - PHILIPPIANS 4:23

PASSAGE

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen."

Philippians 4:23

PRAYER

- Begin your time of prayer by pausing and recognizing the power and presence of God.
- Ask God to open your mind to understand His grace today.
- Pause for a moment and think about the incredible blessing of God's grace in your life.
- Thank God for His amazing grace that saved you from the grip of sin and death and that is sanctifying you now.

TRUTH

God's grace is greater than all your sins and is the source for your salvation.

CHALLENGE

Grace is a word that is common to most Christians but is rarely understood in its fullness. Grace is defined as the unmerited gift of divine favor in the salvation of sinners, and the divine influence operating in individuals for their regeneration and sanctification. In others words, it saved you (justification) and is saving you (sanctification). There is nothing you could do to earn it because it is the free gift of God. It is the expression of God's love that was revealed in Jesus Christ on the cross and in your life today. As you begin your day, give thanks to God for this amazing grace.

TETHERED TO TRUTH



SATURDAY - TETHERED TO TRUTH

As we prayed with Paul through Philippians this week, we were reminded of 5 truths about the character and nature of God. Spend some time today meditating on these truths and ask God to allow them to be woven into your thoughts throughout the day.

Meditation is often used in Eastern religions, but it is prevalent throughout Scripture and has been used by God's people for thousands of years. The difference between Eastern Meditation and Christian Meditation is the goal behind each practice. In Eastern Meditation, the goal is to empty one's mind with the intention to connect with essential nature. Christian mediation has the purpose of filling one's mind with Scripture with the intention of connecting with God.

As you meditate on these truths today, ask God to tether your life to these truths as you process the week behind and prepare for the week ahead.

TRUTHS

You can have confidence that God will complete the good work that He began in you through Christ Jesus.

Your ability to discern what is best is found in the knowledge of God that is made known in His abounding love.

The Holy Spirit gives you power and courage to honor Christ for the glory of God.

God meets you in your anxious thoughts and provides a peace that transcends all understanding through His love and presence.

God's grace is greater than all your sins and is the only means of your salvation.

TETHERED TO TRUTH

