

## **Paul's Prayer for Abounding Love**

**1. Paul Prays That the Philippians' Love May Abundantly Overflow.**

**2. He Is Asking for a Specific Love for a Particular Purpose.**

**3. Christ's Love Brings a Harvest of Righteousness to Glorify God.**

CONCLUSION: Paul prays for the Philippian Christians in a way that is both instructive and encouraging. The truth of the gospel is not just something we need to know in order to be saved, but it is the reality that God uses to make us more loving. As we grow in Christ's love for one another, may we rejoice in Him. Lord Christ, grant us love that abounds more and more in real knowledge and discernment. Give us hearts that rejoice in what You delight in. Grow us together in Christ's love that we might have a bountiful harvest of righteousness and that You might receive all the praise that You are due.

## **Ephesians 4:11-16**

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,<sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,<sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,<sup>14</sup> so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.<sup>15</sup> Rather, *speaking the truth in love*, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,<sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

## **First Peter 1:22-25**

<sup>22</sup> Having purified your souls by your *obedience to the truth* for a sincere brotherly love, *love one another earnestly from a pure heart*,<sup>23</sup> since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;<sup>24</sup> for

“All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass.  
The grass withers, and the flower falls,  
<sup>25</sup> but *the word of the Lord* remains forever.”

And this *word* is the good news that was preached to you.

## **Romans 1:16; 18; 32; 2:18-21**

<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of *the gospel*, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ...<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness *suppress the truth*. ...<sup>32</sup> Though they *know* God’s righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give *approval* to those who practice them. ...<sup>18</sup> and *know his will* and *approve what is excellent*, because you are instructed from the law;<sup>19</sup> and if you are sure that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness,<sup>20</sup> an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of children, having in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth—<sup>21</sup> you then who teach others, do you not teach yourself? While you preach against stealing, do you steal?