



PARTNERSHIP

DAILY DEVOTIONAL | WEDNESDAY 11/11

MEMORY VERSE: PHILIPPIANS 1:4-6

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.

READING CHALLENGE

Read the book of Philippians each day this week! (It is only 4 chapters and will take less than 15 minutes!)

PERSONAL REFLECTION

As Paul comes to the end of this letter of encouragement to his friends and partners in Philippi, he thanks them for “sharing with [him] in the matter of giving and receiving” (4:15). Once again, he approaches it from the perspective of a friend and partner. He is grateful that they are sharing in his troubles (4:14), and excited for the blessing that they will receive because of the sacrifices they have made for the sake of God’s work.

- Have you ever been excited to give to something? What was it, and why did you want to be a part of it?

As you read Philippians today, note how the relationship between Paul and the Philippians leads to their tangible expression of partnership by giving to meet Paul’s needs, referred to in 4:10-19.

- After spending the rest of the letter advocating contentment, humility, putting others first, and seeing our lives as garbage compared to knowing Jesus, is there any reason to think that Paul is after personal gain?
 - If not, what seems to be his main concern in this passage?
- What phrases seem to indicate the attitudes of the Philippians as they gave toward Paul’s needs?
- Why do you think they were so committed to Paul and the work he was doing?
- How has your experience with the gospel (and God’s people) affected your desire to give to his work?
- Spend some time looking over the Partner in Giving section of this year’s Commitment Card. Pray for God’s leading in how he might want to partner with you in this area.

OPTIONAL—GOING DEEPER: If you have time, go back and look at Philippians 4:13.

- This is one of the most-quoted verses in the Bible. In what circumstances do people tend to use it? What does it mean for them?

Author Jo Saxton writes, “We often see it recited before sports games or captioned on a social media post. But without its context, we can make the verse out to mean that Jesus is a spiritual steroid shot that empowers people to make game-winning goals or climb the corporate ladder...People can often make Philippians 4:13 about themselves.”

- In the verses before 4:13, what is God strengthening Paul to do? How does that affect your understanding of this verse?
- How have you experienced God strengthen you to go through a situation with contentment?

GROUP DISCUSSION

In Heather’s devotional video, she talked about partnering in giving. As a family or a group, discuss God’s perspective on your resources.

- How do you feel about the idea that your stuff (including your money) is actually God’s?
- What difference would it make in how you saved, spent, and gave if you considered your money as belonging to God? What might you do differently?

Paul thanks the Philippians for renewing their concern for him (4:10), and for sharing in his trouble (4:14) by giving toward his needs.

- How could you demonstrate care and concern for a partner working for the gospel? How might you meet a need?
- Spend some time praying that your group/family will grow into deep enough and caring enough relationships to begin sacrificing in tangible ways for one another. Pray that care and concern grows outward to those who don’t know Christ.