

MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY



PRAYING FOR LOVE

February is called “the month of Love.” When was the last time you felt truly loved? (Share) Share your most recent loving act for someone else.

Read **Philippians 1:8-11** from two or three different Bible translations (KJV, NIV, NLT, TEV, etc). Let’s apply these verses to our lives today.

Verse 8:

1. Do you love the church (the body of Christ)? How much?
2. What kinds of actions prove your love for the body of Christ?
3. Share a time when you longed to be with the church?
4. Explain the heart (tender mercies, tender compassions) of Christ?

Verse 9:

1. When was the last time you prayed for love? Have you ever prayed for more love or for your love or someone else’s love to grow? What was the result? (share)
2. What does it mean to grow in knowledge and understanding?
3. How are your love and moral discernment growing? What more can we do? Hebrews 5:14

Verse 10:

1. What really matters to you? (Share, and be honest and transparent). Romans 12:2
2. Pure and blameless lives? How do we do that? I Thessalonians 3:12-13, 5:23
3. Paul prayed that the Philippian believers would be able to differentiate between right and wrong, good and bad, vital and trivial. In America today, who especially needs our prayers for moral discernment, and why?

Verse 11:

1. What is the fruit of your salvation? Check out the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23.
2. Just as the seeds of the apple produce more apple trees, the fruit of our salvation should be the salvation of others. Tell of the first time you led someone else to accept Jesus as their Savior, and how it affected you?

A Personal illustration: I’m writing this study on November 28, 2012. It’s 9:30 a.m. and my wife just called. She’s been witnessing by word and lifestyle to a worldly young woman for several years. Well my wife just called to tell me her friend just accepted Christ. “How did that happen?” I asked. “Well, you know she’s been my mission field here at work for a long time. A few minutes ago she walked up to me and said ‘can you save me?’ I said No, but Jesus can! So we went to the break room and she prayed

and asked Jesus into her heart.”

PRAISE GOD! I can't wait until my wife gets home to tell me the whole exciting story. Together we will begin discipling her and leading her to follow Christ and grow in love, knowledge, and understanding.

3. Righteous character cannot be produced by human effort. Where does righteous character come from, and how is it manifested in personal relationships?
4. The ultimate purpose for which God's children (Christians – born again believers) live is to bring praise and glory to God. See Ephesians 1:6, 12, 14.

PRAY: That you will grow in love, and that your love will lead others to Christ.