

PHILIPPIANS 2

IT'S ALL ABOUT...

STUDY 2

The book of Philippians is Paul the apostle's letter to the Philippian church, written while imprisoned in Rome around 60-62AD. The letter is filled with exhortations and encouragements towards this beloved community. He reminds the Philippian church to centre their lives on Jesus as 'citizens of heaven', urging them to live lives led by the Spirit.

Jesus is our example and focus as we grow in our faith. We're called to grow as disciples - in our faith, in our maturity, in our wisdom, and in our love. Jesus said, 'I have come that you might have life and life to the full.' He is saying, 'I didn't come for you to have titles, change religion or attend a new church'. Jesus came to give us life - His life - so that we may become more like Him.

This leads us to live lives:

- With conviction and faith over our circumstances
- Imitating Jesus
- Where our response is our witness.

How do we experience this fullness? We often look to the Holy Spirit for comfort, for counsel, for power... but how does the Holy Spirit also enable and guide us to live as disciples of Jesus?

The Holy Spirit is a person! He is intimate, alive, and relational. In this passage in Philippians, Paul is encouraging us to have fullness in life like Jesus; in our relationship with Him and relationships with one another. Jesus models for us how we can have this fully human life as God intended, by becoming more like Christ through the transforming work of the Holy Spirit.

EXPLORE TOGETHER

Read Philippians 2:1-11 in The Message together.

1. Look to Jesus' example of serving one another

Read verses 2:1-4. Notice that these verses speak of how we relationally outwork Jesus' greatest Commandments - Loving God and loving one another. How did Jesus do this in His life - with people of all different backgrounds, needs, issues, levels of brokenness through the enabling power of the Holy Spirit?

Question: How can we ask the Holy Spirit to help us relate with one another as Jesus would?

2. Identify with Jesus

Read verses 2:5-8. Jesus' identity was that of a servant. 'Think of yourselves being like Jesus...' And he has unlocked the opportunity for us to experience this servanthood, serving as He serves.

Question: When it comes to better identifying with Jesus, what areas of your life - your character, your dreams, your fears - is the Holy Spirit prompting you to surrender to enable you to become more like Jesus?

3. Being obedient like Jesus brings divine favour

Read verses 2:9-11. Through the most significant struggling and agonizing moments, Jesus surrendered his divinity, and was obedient to the Father in life - 'and even death to a Cross', bringing Him divine favour.

Question: In what areas of our lives (including our character, our hopes, our fears, and our hurts) can we be more obedient to Jesus? The Holy Spirit can help. Read Galatians 5:22-23 and see what the fruit of our lives can be when we live according to the Holy Spirit.

PRAY TOGETHER

Pray together, and perhaps commit to praying each day in the week ahead.

Come Holy Spirit, enable me to be a disciple, a follower of Jesus. Help me in prayer. Help me to better hear your voice. Teach me your ways. Comfort me. Counsel me. Bring conviction where conviction is needed. Correction where correction is needed. Fill me up with your power. Help me to become more like Jesus. Amen.

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