



Have any of your good friends ever told you why they are thankful for you? Have you ever listened while others prayed for you? If so, you know what a warm feeling it is to be assured that others care. In [Philippians 1:1-11](#) Paul prays and thanks God for his friends in Philippi. As you read the passage, try to imagine yourself sitting with the Philippian Christians as this letter is read for the first time. You might be meeting in the home of Lydia, a Christian businesswoman. Perhaps you would be seated next to the jailer who heard about Christ while guarding Paul and Silas.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read & meditate on [Philippians 1:3-11](#). Jot down 1 or 2 new thoughts that seem important to you. Why are they important to you?
2. What are Paul's feelings toward the Philippians?
3. Why does he feel this way about them?
4. What do [verses 3-8](#) reveal about healthy Christian relationships?
5. How can your present relationships be strengthened to become more like what is described in [verses 3-8](#)?
6. Re-read [Philippians 1:9-11](#). What are Paul's specific prayer requests for the Philippians?
7. Why would each of these qualities be essential to the spiritual maturity of a Christ follower?
8. What does Paul's prayer teach about how we should be thankful for and pray for others?

MOVING FORWARD

Using Paul's prayer as a model, spend a few minutes thanking God, thanking God for those within your sphere of influence, and praying for someone you love in Christ. Seek God's counsel in ways you can "Thanks Doing," that is, ways you can say and show others how thankful you are for their presence in your life and draw them closer to Jesus.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

["I give thanks to my God for every remembrance of you,"](#)
[Philippians 1:3](#)