

PIVOT – Uncompromising Flexibility

Principle #1 – Paul stayed **CONNECTED** to his spiritual friends
vs.1-11

- Paul's **GRATITUDE** for his spiritual friends and partners vs. 3-5
- 'I thank my God' – you are **EVIDENCE** of God's goodness in my life
 - 'for you all' – (4x) prayer breaks down **BARRIERS** that can divide
 - 'your participation' – common **FAITH** and common **EFFORT** binds hearts
- Paul's **CONFIDENCE** in God's work among them vs. 6-8
- Their **PROGRESS** will stand the test of time vs. 6
 - Their **COURAGE** is evidence of God working vs.7-8
- Paul's **PRAYER** for their love, their choices, and their fruitfulness vs. 9-11
- **GROWING** in love for each other vs. 9
 - **DISCERNMENT** in making solid life choices vs. 10
 - Fruitfulness **IN** your life **FOR ALL** of your life vs.10-11

Principle #2 - Paul simply wanted Jesus to become more
BROADLY KNOWN vs. 12-20

- Paul's '**NEW NORMAL**' resulted in new **OPPORTUNITIES** vs.12-14
- Surprise! The **UNEXPECTED** took place instead of the expected! vs. 12
 - Surprise! **CLOSED** doors are now open! vs. 13
 - Surprise! **COURAGE** is up, fear is down! vs. 14
- Paul didn't **COMPETE** with spiritual competition vs. 15-18
- Paul was aware of various **MOTIVES** vs. 15-17
 - The power is in the **MESSAGE**, not the messenger vs. 18
 - Paul **CELEBRATES** the results, not the means vs. 18
- Paul's **PERSONAL HOPE** is in this same Jesus vs. 19-20
- Paul knows his circumstances will improve
 - Your **PRAYERS, SPIRIT'S** provision will release me
 - Release from **JAIL** or release to **HEAVEN**
 - Until then, let Jesus be **EXALTED** through him!

Auburn Grace Community Church – May 17th, 2020

Life Group Questions – May 17th, 2020

Philippians 1:6-7: 'For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus. For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you in my heart, since both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers of grace with me.'

QUICK REVIEW

1. Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9. As parents today, what implications does this passage have for us? How does the love of the Lord affect the way our children are to be raised? Regarding vv. 8-9, what can we use as modern-day equivalents to frontlets between our eyes, a sign on our hands or writing scripture on our door posts?
2. Read Philippians 2:3. Describe what happens when parents routinely put the needs of their children before their own. How can this outward-looking mentality from mom and dad work to nurture confidence in their kids?

MY STORY

1. Can you remember a time when a Christian brother or sister really encouraged you? Has there been someone who encouraged you in the Lord when you were really struggling with a tough circumstance in life? Describe one such experience.
2. Describe a time when you stood up for or spoke out for Jesus; a time when you least expected to make Jesus known but the door opened up to share and you did it! What were the circumstances and what were the results?

GOING DEEP

1. How significant are the Christian relationships in your life? Do you have Christian friends that you can freely call to share difficulties and receive encouragement and prayer? Is this an area in your life that could use improvement?
2. Read Philippians 1:12-20. What message to the Philippians was Paul conveying as a result of his imprisonment (vs. 12-13)? What impact did this have on other believers (vs. 14)? Can you think of a story that exhibits this point?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 4:3-4. Given how painful it is to be harshly criticized and treated, how could Paul write this? What do we know about his past history that prepared him for his darkest hour? What experiences do you own that can prepare you in a similar way?

PUTTING IT TOGETHER:

1. What do you think are some of the challenges to living out each point?
2. Which of the above teaching points are most important for **you** to remember?