# Pray This When You Are Ready to Give Up

Philippians 1:9-11

## Introduction: We all lose perspective sometimes

### Psalm 73

- **Verses 1-2:** Surely God is good, but "my feet almost slipped; I nearly lost my foothold."

- **Verses 3-14:** Envying the arrogant, seeing the prosperity of the wicked, and feeling like "surely in vain I have kept my heart pure."

- **Verses 15-24:** The pivot point when trying to understand troubles you deeply, "until I entered the sanctuary of God" and understood their final destiny and God's justice.

- **Verses 25-28:** Reestablishing perspective at the very end: "God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever" and "the nearness of God is my good."

**Losing perspective is _____, but it is so _____.**

**Question:** What do you pray when you lose perspective?

**Answer:** Pray Philippians 1:9-11



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*9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; 11 having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.*

Philippians 1:9-11

## The context – life in Philippi:

- **Philippi was a Roman colony:** A very important city where the government reigns, but the culture is anti-God and anti-Christian with idols everywhere.

- **Strong persecution and a miraculous beginning:** Paul preached by the riverside where Lydia came to faith, and he later sang hymns in jail with Silas before the jailer came to Christ.

- **Division in the community and the church:** There is political division, families are divided, and people have lost perspective.

- **Their spiritual leader is unjustly on trial:** Paul is likely going to be executed, leaving people thinking, "I think I'll give up. I'm done with this."

## The context leading up to the prayer: Philippians 1:3-8

- Paul's gratitude and joy Philippians 1:3-5

- Paul's confidence Philippians 1:6

- Paul's reminder of shared experiences Philippians 1:7-8


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## Structure of this prayer:

- The _____ Philippians 1:9
- The _____ Philippians 1:10
- The _____ Philippians 1:11

## Unpacking this prayer:

- **Abound (v. 9):** A super overflow; bubbling up in your heart rather than changing your circumstances.
- **Real Knowledge (v. 9):** An accurate, clear, intimate relational knowledge of who God really is.
- **All Discernment (v. 9):** A supernatural antennae for "grey issues" to approve the things that are excellent.
- **Sincere (v. 10):** Unmixable; tested by sunlight.
- **Blameless (v. 10):** What you say and who you are telling the same story.
- **Filled with the fruit of righteousness (v. 11):** This is your current standing in Christ, which produces a life lived to the glory and praise of God.


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## Discussion Questions:

1. Why is losing perspective so dangerous, and how does a lapse in our morality eventually begin to change our theology?

2. How does remembering your shared experiences with God and how He has worked in the past protect your mind when new circumstances cause you to doubt Him?

3. The speaker noted that our greatest testimony isn't how we respond to prosperity, but how we handle a raw deal. How can you use a current hardship to reveal who Jesus is to others?

4. How does embracing the reality that "this life really is not about you" completely change your response to disappointments or unfair situations this week?

5. What concrete action step will you take today to guard your mind when discouraging thoughts begin to build up?


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