



## Hope for Breakthroughs and Then Some!

Lesson 8 • Philemon 21-25

*Real fellowship in Christ breaks through barriers to refreshing relationships with one another.*

### Is There any Hope for **Unreconciled** Relationships?

*In Christ there's always hope: **RESURRECTION** hope! Philemon 21:25*

### Hope for Future Breakthroughs and Then Some!

## 1. Hope for Future **OBEDIENCE** and Then Some...*an Open Heart!*

*"Having confidence in your obedience, I write to you, since I know that you will do even more than what I say." (v. 21)*

### Confidence in Christ-Centered Choices

- Be obedient to the **LORDSHIP** of Christ by **LOVING** one another!

*A refusal to be forgiving and releasing those who have wronged us says more about us than those we refuse to forgive!*

- Be open to going beyond the "letter of the law" and doing **WHATEVER** Christ asks of you.

### **What is the "even more" that Paul is confidently expecting from Philemon?**

1. Breakthroughs are possible **WHEREVER** God's people are willing to *go beyond just being obedient to loving one another* as God in Christ has loved us. *John 13:1*
2. Breakthroughs are possible when our faith **GROWS** *beyond just doing what is asked to doing more than what is required.*

*Have an open heart to doing more than what is required!*

## 2. Hope for Future **DELIVERANCE** and Then Some...*an Open Home!*

*"At the same time also prepare me a lodging, for I hope that through your prayers I will be given to you." (v. 22)*

### **Why Does Paul Make This Request in Such a Little Letter?**

**HOSPITALITY** and **ACCOUNTABILITY** are marks of real fellowship.

- Pray for the release of those in **BONDAGE**.
- Prepare for the reception of a **BROTHER or SISTER**. *Acts 16:14-15, 40*

**Prepare for the Arrival of Christ at Any Moment!**

Answer the door when He knocks! *Revelation 3:20*

Abide with Him! *Luke 24:28-29*

Anticipate with His arrival at any moment! *Revelation 22:17*

**3. Hope for Future FELLOWSHIP and Then Some...an Open Hand!**

*"Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you, as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow workers." (vv. 23-24)*

**Real Fellowship Is for Fruitful Partnership**

- We partner together to **SERVE** Christ and others. (*v. 24; Colossians 4:7-17*)

See CHART Comparing the Farewell Endings in Colossians and Philemon.

- We partner together to **SACRIFICE** for the glory of Christ and the good of others.

*Is your hand closed or open to serving Christ and others?*

<b>REAL FELLOWSHIP in CHRIST</b>	
<b>RELEASES</b> slaves from bondage and then some...	<b>Relationship with Christ</b>
<b>RECEIVES</b> saints as brothers & sisters and then some...	<b>Fellowship with One Another</b>
<b>RECOGNIZES &amp; RESTORES</b> them as members and then some...	<b>Membership in the Local Church</b>
<b>RELEASES</b> members to be partners in the work of the ministry!	<b>Partnership in the Ministry</b>

**4. Hope for Future BREAKTHROUGHS and Then Some...an Openness to His Healing!**

*"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit." (V. 25)*

*"It is a hard thing Paul has asked of him: a superhuman task of heartfelt reconciliation and forgiveness. If he is to do it without pride or anger, he cannot do it without grace. But grace is what is available: the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, who, though He was rich, yet for our sakes became poor, that we by His poverty might become rich (2Cor. 8:9); the same Christ who took upon Himself the nature, and the death, of the slave (Phil. 2:7-8)." – N. T. Wright*

**By His Grace Alone We Are Able to Hope for Future Breakthroughs and Then Some!**

**Receive** the best from the Lord! (*v. 25*)

**Expect** the best from others in the Lord! (*v. 20*)

**Think** the best of others in the Lord! (*v. 21*)

**Share** the best with others in the Lord! (*v. 22*)

**Serve** the best with others in the Lord! (*vv. 23-24*)

**Pray** the best for others in the Lord! (*v. 25*)

**Is There Hope for Breakthroughs and Then Some? Amen!**

**"It Is True!"**

*Real fellowship in Christ breaks through barriers to refreshing relationships with one another!*

**"Let It Be!"**

*Break through barriers and remove relational roadblocks with an effective faith, a reconciling love, and a confident hope by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ!*

# PHILEMON

“Affectionate”

Convert of Paul, Household Master, & Church Host Needs to Break Through to Real Fellowship with His Runaway but Recently Converted Slave, Onesimus!

## Breakthrough to Real Fellowship

*Real fellowship in Christ breaks through barriers to refreshing relationships with one another.*

*“If then you regard me a partner, accept him as you would me...Yes, brother...refresh my heart in Christ.” Philemon 17, 20*

**Rub a Dub Dub, Three Men in a Tub of Trouble!**

PHILEMON the MASTER 1 or Is He? 7		ONESIMUS in the MESS 8 Like the Rest of Us! 17		PAUL in the MIDDLE 18 Like Christ Our Mediator! 25	
Praise for Philemon		Plea for Onesimus		Promise by Paul of...	
1-3 “Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus... Grace to you and peace...”	4-7 “I thank my God always, making mention of you in my prayers...”	8-17 “Therefore...for love’s sake I rather appeal to you — If then you regard me a partner, accept him as you would me.”	PAYMENT 18-20 “But if he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to my account...I will repay...”	PARTNERSHIP 21-24 “Having confidence in your obedience, I write to you, since I know that you will do even more than what I say.”	PROVISION 25 “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. [Amen]!”
4 FUNDAMENTALS of Real Fellowship	3 BENCHMARKS of Real Fellowship	5 STAGES for Removing Roadblocks to Reconciliation	3 REASONS Why Reconciliation Is Risky Business	4 WAYS to Find Hope for Future Breakthroughs and Then Some	2 REMINDERS about Real Fellowship
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It can <b>never</b> be forced on one another!</li> <li>It's <b>always</b> a result of releasing our rights!</li> <li>It's <b>always</b> personal but never private!</li> <li>It's <b>never</b> possible apart from divine resources: <i>Grace and peace!</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is <b>radiating</b> fellowship that flows outward from a growing relationship with Christ.</li> <li>It is <b>radical</b> fellowship that treats others the way God in Christ has treated us!</li> <li>It is <b>refreshing</b> fellowship that applies divine resources to the deepest needs of the human heart!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make a <b>request</b> not a <b>ruling</b>.</li> <li>Seek to <b>reconcile</b> the people not <b>resolve</b> the problem.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on <b>receiving</b> not <b>rejecting</b>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Begin to <b>renew</b> your perspective not <b>replay</b> the past.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Think <b>eternal</b> not temporary.</li> <li>Think <b>reconciliation</b> not separation.</li> <li>Think <b>brotherhood</b> not bondage.</li> <li>Think <b>love</b> not hate or indifference.</li> <li>Think <b>spiritual</b> not just physical.</li> <li>Think <b>gain</b> not loss.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Choose to <b>remove</b> the roadblocks not <b>resist</b> God’s purpose in Christ.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>risk</b> of rejection is great.</li> <li>The <b>cost</b> of reconciliation is high.</li> <li>The <b>return</b> of refreshment is priceless.</li> </ul> <p><i>It’s risky business because it always takes two to reconcile!</i></p> <p><i>But removing roadblocks to reconciliation is always possible when we...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Receive <b>Christ</b> and become His partner in the ministry of reconciliation.</li> <li>Receive <b>others</b> in the same way Christ has received us — <i>as undeserving partners in the ministry of reconciliation.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hope for future <b>obedience</b> and then some...<b>an open heart!</b></li> <li>Hope for future <b>deliverance</b> and then some...<b>an open home!</b></li> <li>Hope for future <b>fellowship</b> and then some...<b>an open hand!</b></li> <li>Hope for future <b>breakthrough</b> and then some...<b>an openness to His healing!</b></li> </ul> <p><i>By His grace we’re able to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Receive the <b>best</b>...</li> <li>Expect the <b>best</b> from others...</li> <li>Think the <b>best</b> of others...</li> <li>Share the <b>best</b> with others...</li> <li>Give the <b>best</b> to others...</li> <li>Pray the <b>best</b> for others... <i>in the Lord!</i></li> </ul>	<p><i>Is there hope for future breakthroughs and then some?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amen: <b>It Is True!</b> <i>Real fellowship in Christ breaks through barriers to refreshing relationships with one another!</i> So <b>PRAISE</b> God for It!</li> <li>Amen: <b>Let It Be!</b> <i>Remove relational roadblocks with an effective faith, a reconciling love, and a confident hope by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ!</i> So <b>PRAY</b> for one another to experience It!</li> </ul>
REFRESH HEARTS by GRACE	3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.	7 For I have come to have much joy and comfort in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother.	12 I have sent him back to you in person, that is, my very heart,	20 Yes, brother, let me benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ.	25 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.
"You" Sing = 20x	2	4, 6, 7	8, 10, 11 (2x), 12, 13, 14, 16	18, 19, 20	21 (2x), 23
"YOU" Plural = 4x	3 Grace to YOU and peace				22 for I trust that through YOUR prayers I shall be granted to YOU. 25 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with YOUR spirit.