

*Philippians 2*

**MONDAY: Read Philippians 2**

Which idea/truth stands out most to you in this chapter? Why? *Pray that you (& we) learn to depend on the Spirit for understanding and applying God's truths to our changing lives.*

**TUESDAY: Read Philippians 2:1-3**

Think deeply about giving and receiving God's encouragement, comfort, love, fellowship, and compassion. Detail some of your most extraordinary experiences with God in both giving & receiving? *Pray that the Spirit teaches you (us) all about the truths & realities of living as kingdom citizens now.*

**WEDNESDAY: Read Philippians 2:4-11; Hebrews 12:1-4**

Why did Jesus leave His throne & divine prerogatives to humble Himself as a man? Rewrite Hebrews 12:2 in your own words. What will you have to do live with this kind of "long-range perspective"? How will a "long-range view" help you to be less selfish, less triggered, less offended day to day? *Ask Spirit to teach you truths about Christ's character being formed in you to be experienced in real life.*

**THURSDAY: Read Philippians 2:12-18**

According to Paul (13), who is working in you to display outwardly the ongoing results of your salvation? How would your life change if you acted out v.14? As lights illuminating Jesus, how can God keep you acting out of the Spirit while living among people of darkness (15,16)? *Spend some time pondering & thanking God for embracing us in His life and love, and filling our original emptiness.*

**FRIDAY: Read Philippians 2:19-24**

What are Paul's feelings about Timothy? How does he commend Timothy, and for what? Do you have a "Timothy" in your life? Are you a "Timothy" for someone else? Will you let him/her know just how much they mean to you? *Pray that you trust the Spirit to lead you today as a fruitful disciple of Christ.*

**SATURDAY: Read Philippians 2:25-30**

In this section, how is Paul acting out verses 1-5? How might Epaphroditus be a "Timothy" to Paul (and perhaps others in Philippi)? *Ask the Spirit to enlarge your area of compassionate ministry!*

## **PHILIPPIANS 2 (NLT)**

**1)** Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? **2)** Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. **3)** Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. **4)** Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

**5)** You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. **6)** Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. **7)** Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, **8)** he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. **9)** Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, **10)** that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11)** and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**12)** Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. **13)** For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him. **14)** Do everything without complaining and arguing, **15)** so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people. **16)** Hold firmly to the word of life; then, on the day of Christ's return, I will be proud that I did not run the race in vain and that my work was not useless. **17)** But I will rejoice even if I lose my life, pouring it out like a liquid offering to God, just like your faithful service is an offering to God. And I want all of you to share that joy. **18)** Yes, you should rejoice, and I will share your joy.

**19)** If the Lord Jesus is willing, I hope to send Timothy to you soon for a visit. Then he can cheer me up by telling me how you are getting along. **20)** I have no one else like Timothy, who genuinely cares about your welfare. **21)** All the others care only for themselves and not for what matters to Jesus Christ. **22)** But you know how Timothy has proved himself. Like a son with his father, he has served with me in preaching the Good News. **23)** I hope to send him to you just as soon as I find out what is going to happen to me here. **24)** And I have confidence from the Lord that I myself will come to see you soon.

**25)** Meanwhile, I thought I should send Epaphroditus back to you. He is a true brother, co-worker, and fellow soldier. And he was your messenger to help me in my need. **26)** I am sending him because he has been longing to see you, and he was very distressed that you heard he was ill. **27)** And he certainly was ill; in fact, he almost died. But God had mercy on him—and also on me, so that I would not have one sorrow after another. **28)** So I am all the more anxious to send him back to you, for I know you will be glad to see him, and then I will not be so worried about you. **29)** Welcome him with Christian love and with great joy, and give him the honor that people like him deserve. **30)** For he risked his life for the work of Christ, and he was at the point of death while doing for me what you couldn't do from far away.