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# Ministering for God's Glory

## *Abounding in Love – Philippians 1:9-11*

**Introduction**

Genuine Fakes or Genuine Imitators

Pursuing Christ-likeness is *the* defining element in our own spiritual growth.

Praying for and encouraging the pursuit of Christ-likeness is the underlying goal behind all ministry.

Abounding in Christ's love is essential for both.

**Paul's prayer for spiritual growth progresses through four particulars that are based on God's provision.**

1. **Increasing love according to the knowledge of God**

   *Is my love for the Lord such that I am able to say "for me to live is Christ and to die is gain"? If not, what has replaced Christ's rightful place in my life?*

2. **Insightful illumination according to the will of God**

*What can I apply to my life about suffering and the relationship it has on me being a servant for Christ?*

3. **Intentional living according to the precepts of God**

*Do I have the same attitude toward God and others that Christ does regarding others more important than me? What attitudes might need to be changed in order for me to better minister for His glory?*

4. **Inspired likeness according of the work of God**

*Do I allow my circumstances to affect my peace? What aspect of prayer might I need to change in order for this to be true about me?*

**<u>Practical Questions:</u>**

1. Is my life one worthy to emulate? How do I encourage another's growth?
2. Am I purposed and intentional about pursuing Christ-likeness? Is confession of sin a regular part of my practice? Do I ask others the sin they may see manifest in my life?
3. Do I truly seek spiritual growth yielding myself to the Holy Spirit's leading or do I pursue doing better for "better sake"? How do I respond when someone either doesn't notice my efforts or points out where I have fallen short?

**Confident that God will complete what He has begun having the sealing promise and indwelling presence of His Holy Spirit, may we daily commune with our Lord praying to abound in His love and serve by His grace.**

Lord God, would you enable me today to feel the presence of your Spirit and to be blessed by His work in my life. Your sacred *oil* anoints me as your child setting me apart to serve; enable me to be filled with your grace to carry out what you have called me to. Your purifying *water* has cleansed me from the power of sin and sanctifies me unto holiness; may I be committed to doing your good pleasure. Originally your *light* had manifest my lost state drawing me to yourself; now may it guide me in the way of righteousness. Your *fire* purges my dross; may it set ablaze a passion to serve you. Your *dew* removes my barrenness; may it fertilize my spiritual growth and foster the same in others. May I with confidence commit myself to the doing of your will over my own trusting You, the great Comforter knows and cares for all believer's souls dispelling doubts that seek to mar the peace knowing You affords. Fill me today quickening my spirit to be animated and sustained in service towards the honor and glory of your name. Amen.



Chapter 1

Because **Christ** is my **Emancipator**

*I* have become *a slave of Christ;* therefore pray

I conduct myself worthy of the gospel.

Chapter 2

Because **Christ** is my **Substitute**

*I* am able to be an *imitator of Christ:* therefore pray

I regard another more important than myself.

Chapter 3

Because **Christ** is my **Benefactor**

*I* have been *imputed with Christ's righteousness;* therefore pray

I press on to lay hold of Christ.

Chapter 4

Because **Christ** is my **Provider**

*I* am able to receive *enabling grace and strengthening power*; therefore pray

I will be anxious for nothing and will pray with thanksgiving for all things.