

Under Construction

Philippians 1:1-11

Big Idea: "Under construction: Thank you for your patience." God is still working on us, shaping us to be more like Jesus. We're called to be servants and saints, growing in love, joy, and righteousness. He who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it.

Day 1: Servants and
Saints in Christ

Reading:
Philippians 1:1-2

Paul opens his letter to the Philippians by identifying himself and Timothy as "servants of Christ Jesus." This humble self-description reminds us of our primary identity as followers of Christ. Yet, Paul also addresses the recipients as "saints," highlighting the dual nature of our calling - we are both servants and saints. Today, reflect on what it means to be a servant of Christ in your daily life. How can you embody this servant attitude in your interactions with others? At the same time, meditate on your identity as a saint - set apart and made holy by Christ's sacrifice. How does this identity shape your self-perception and your actions? Ask God to help you live out both aspects of your calling today.

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Day 2: The Joy of
Partnership in the
Gospel

Reading:
Philippians 1:3-6

Paul expresses his deep joy and gratitude for the Philippians' partnership in the gospel. This partnership goes beyond mere association; it involves active participation in spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. Today, consider your own partnerships in the gospel. Who are the people in your life that you can thank God for, those who encourage and support you in your faith journey? Take time to express gratitude for these relationships. Additionally, reflect on how you can be a better partner to others in sharing and living out the gospel. Remember Paul's confidence that God, who began a good work in you, will carry it on to completion.

How does this assurance impact your faith and your willingness to persevere in serving Christ?

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Day 3: Growing in
Love and Discernment

Reading:
Philippians 1:9-11

Paul prays for the Philippians' love to abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight. This prayer reminds us that Christian love is not just an emotion, but a commitment that grows alongside our understanding of God's truth. Today, ask yourself: How can I grow in both love and discernment? Consider areas in your life where you need more wisdom to love others effectively. Pray for God to increase your capacity to love, even in challenging situations. Also, reflect on the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ. How is this fruit manifesting in your life? Ask God to help you bear more fruit for His glory, growing in purity and blamelessness as you await Christ's return.

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Day 4: Finding Joy in
Suffering

Reading:
Philippians 1:12-18
2 Corinthians 11:23-28

Paul's ability to find joy amidst suffering is a powerful testament to the transformative power of the gospel. Despite his imprisonment and the hardships he faced, Paul rejoiced that the gospel was being preached. Today, reflect on the challenges you're facing. How can you, like Paul, find joy even in difficult circumstances? Remember that our sufferings can often become opportunities for the gospel to advance. Consider how God might be using your current struggles to shape you and to reach others. Pray for the strength to maintain a joyful perspective, focusing on Christ's work rather than your own comfort.

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Day 5: Being Under
Construction

Reading:
Philippians 1:6,
Ephesians 4:22-24

The image of being "under construction" is a powerful reminder of God's ongoing work in our lives. Just as Ruth Bell Graham's tombstone reads "End of Construction. Thank you for your patience," we too are works in progress until the day we meet Christ. Today, reflect on the areas of your life where God is actively working. What old habits or thoughts is He helping you to "put off," and what new, Christlike attributes is He developing in you? Remember that this process of sanctification is God's work, yet it requires our cooperation. How can you be more intentional about yielding to God's transformative work in your life? Thank God for His patience and grace as He continues to shape you into the image of Christ.

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