

# Rejoicing in Growth

*(Philippians 1:9-18)*

## Philippians 4:4

**“Rejoice in the Lord always.  
Again I will say, rejoice!”**

# 1. A prayer for abounding love & discernment (1:9-11)

## Love with knowledge:

Paul prays that their love is guided by knowledge and all discernment... It is love that aligns with God's truth

## Approving what is excellent:

Discernment equips the congregation to approve the things that are excellent... sorting truth from error

## The fruits of righteousness:

The goal is to live pure and blameless lives that produce the fruits of righteousness... to the glory and praise of God

## 2. Advancement of the Gospel even in adversity (1:12-14)

### Turning setbacks into opportunities:

Paul wants the church to know his imprisonment has not hindered the spread of the Gospel

### “The whole palace guard”:

Paul's chains became known to the whole Roman imperial guard

### Boldness in the brethren:

Paul's steadfastness motivated the rest of the brethren to boldly speak without fear

### 3. Christ is proclaimed regardless of motives (1:15-18)

#### Preaching with different motives:

- **Envy and strife**—*selfish ambition, not sincere, add affliction to Paul*
- **Goodwill**—*out of love*

#### The ultimate priority:

Paul is not condoning false teaching—truth being taught transcends the motives of the one doing the teaching

#### A reason to rejoice:

“Whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice” (v. 18)

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1. *A prayer for abounding love and discernment (vv. 9-11)*
2. *The advancement of the Gospel even in adversity (vv. 12-14)*
3. *Christ is proclaimed regardless of motives (vv. 15-18)*

# The Letter of Philippians