

JESUS STRONG IN GOSPEL PARTNERSHIPS

Part 1 of Jesus Strong. Philippians 1:1-11.
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. September 15, 2024.

OUR FALL TEACHING SERIES

WHY PHILIPPIANS?

The Letter to the Philippians is an excellent discipleship guide.

- It will help us follow Jesus because it contains:
 - Profound Christology
 - Instruction on healthy relationships
 - Reasons for generosity
 - Insights into faith and resilience.
 - Clear teaching on the gospel and salvation.
- The message of the Letter is that Jesus is strong, and he makes us strong as we follow him.

PHILIPPIANS 1:1-11

Philippians 1:1-11 (CSB) Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus: To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons.
2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 I give thanks to my God for every remembrance of you, 4 always praying with joy for all of you in my every prayer, 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. 6 I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. 7 Indeed, it is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I have you in my heart, and you are all partners with me in grace, both in my imprisonment and in the

defense and confirmation of the gospel. 8 For God is my witness, how deeply I miss all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

9 And I pray this: that your love will keep on growing in knowledge and every kind of discernment, 10 so that you may approve the things that are superior

and (*I also pray that you*) may be pure and blameless in the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God.

JESUS STRONG IN GOSPEL PARTNERSHIPS

1. The passage divides into three parts:

- Peace - verses 1-2.
- Partnership - verses 3-8.
- Prayer - verses 9-11.

Part One: Jesus Strong In Peace - verses 1-2.

- The source of peace is unique to the Christian faith - God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Peace with God and the well-being that comes from it is a gift from God, not a reward.
- *We* don't make peace with God; *he* makes peace with us.

John 14:27 (CSB) Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives.

- Peace with God (theological) and peace from God (social, psychological) comes only through Jesus.
- We are not strong in our resources; we are Jesus Strong.

Part Two: Jesus Strong In Partnerships - verses 3-8.

- Paul had great affection for the Philippians (verse 8), and that's why he prayed with gratitude and joy for them (verses 3-4).
- He called his strong connection to them a “partnership.” It's from a Greek word meaning to share something in common. They shared the gospel in common.
- They were partners in the grace and work of the gospel.
- We are partners today. We share in the grace and work of gospel as a congregation, on ministry teams, and with our various outreach partners.

Part Three: Jesus Strong in Prayer - verses 9-11.

- The first prayer (verses 9-10a) is for growing sacrificial love. Love must be discerning so that we don't get entangled in dysfunction and sins.
- The second prayer (verses 10b-11) is for righteous living. A church grows stronger as we faithfully follow Jesus's teachings together.
- Prayer is a key to being Jesus Strong. God can do in a second what we could never do in a million years of self-improvement.

JESUS STRONG TOGETHER

We are Jesus Strong together.

- We are partners in the same Lord, the same grace, the same faith, the same ministry, and the same goal: the praise and glory of God (verse 11).

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Review

- Review the September 15 study guide (<https://www.famousgod.com/teaching-notes>)
- What were the highlights of the passage or Peter's teaching?
- What questions do you have about the passage or Peter's teaching?
- Use the S.P.E.C.K. method to reflect on and apply the teaching:
 - S: Sins to confess
 - P: Promises to claim
 - E: Examples to follow
 - C: Commands to obey or Christ to rest in
 - K: Knowledge or insights to consider

Discuss

- In what ways has peace with God through Jesus impacted your life?
- Share your experiences of partnership in gospel work.
- What could your group do to increase the level of partnership with Cornerstone's outreach partners or ministry teams?
- Why does love need to be growing in knowledge and discernment? What are some examples of undiscerning love?

Prayers

- Pray for revival in the American Church and national spiritual awakening.
- Pray for the Cornerstone Church - people, volunteers, staff, leaders.
- Pray for your group.
- Pray for whatever the Lord puts on your mind.