

Elements of Spiritual Growth Pt. 2
Philippians 1:10-11

Paul's Prayer for the Believers

And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, ¹¹ being filled with the fruits of righteousness which *are* by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. ¹

Introduction:

These are the foundational elements of spiritual Growth. An absolute Necessity for every Christians life

I. Love *last week Review This is the foundation of all Christian life. Without Love all is meaningless and useless, no matter how great you are or think you*

II. Excellence *that you may approve the things that are excellent*

A. That---- Because you have biblical love

1. approve-

a) dokimazo, it's very familiar in the New Testament. It was used in classical Greek for assaying metal to determine its properties and its purity. It was used for testing money to be sure that it wasn't counterfeit. In [Luke 14:19](#) it is used of testing the quality of animals, namely oxen. And in [Luke 12:56](#) it is used of sort of assessing the state of the sky, or analyzing the weather. So it has to do with testing to verify or to prove or to determine something that you would have the capability to evaluate and determine the things that are excellent.

¹ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Php 1:9–11). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

b. **excellent** -- -----diaphero, means literally to differ, referring to the things that are excellent, to differ. In other words, so that you'll know the difference between things and be able to determine what is most important. The idea then is to be able to set proper value on things, what is valuable, what is not valuable, what is more valuable, what is most valuable, what is worthwhile, what is vital, what is excellent, what is the thing that really matters.

This is a prayer for the mind because you cannot pursue what is excellent unless you can assess what is excellent. This is the challenge to me of life, is having the ability to pursue what is most noble and best.

I read about it this week, in which people were given new concepts. In other words, a man came in and gave these people a new concept, something they had never heard of before. And asked them to believe it. And knowing that in asking them to believe it they would have to set aside some of the things they had previously thought were true. The results were interesting. Fifty percent of the people believed it immediately without thinking. Thirty percent of the people didn't believe it immediately without thinking. Fifteen percent of the people wanted to wait a little while before they made up their mind but asked for no clarification and no further information and then made up their mind. Five percent of the people analyzed all the details and finally came to a conclusion. And the result of the test goes something like this...it is estimated that five percent of the people think; fifteen percent of the people think they think and eighty percent of the people would rather die than think. That's how it is in the world.

Somebody said, "Most of society is on a caboose looking backward." Now they're just seeing what goes by.

It reminds me of the story of the pilot who came on the loud speaker on the plane and said, "I have some good news and some bad news. The bad news is we have lost all our instrumentation and don't know where we are. The good news is we have a tail wind and are making great time."

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. ²

² *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Ro 12:2). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Phil 4:8

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.³

Eph 5:8 Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), ¹⁰ finding out what is acceptable to the Lord⁴

Eph 5:15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, ¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil. ⁵ Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord *is*.⁶

1 Thess 5:21 Test all things; hold fast what is good. ²² Abstain from every form of evil. ⁷

III. Integrity that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ,

³ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Php 4:8). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁴ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Eph 5:8–10). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁵ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Eph 5:15–16). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁶ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Eph 5:17). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁷ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (1 Th 5:21–22). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

that hina clause with the subjunctive clause

You are to love so that you can pursue excellence in order that, or for the purpose of being a person of integrity

1. Personal Integrity

Now look at those two words in verse 10, "In order to be sincere and blameless." They have a different meaning, a different emphasis that I want you to see. The word "sincere" is a very interesting word. It means genuine. But it has a possibility of a couple of different roots. Some think it is rooted in a word that means to sift, a grain would be put in a sieve and sifted until all the impurity was removed. And what came through would be the pure grain. And there is a possibility that this word has that root and that it means that all the impurity of your life has been sifted out so you're pure, genuine, 100 percent.

Now on the other hand, it also could have as its root two words in the Greek, one word meaning sun, the other meaning to judge so that it literally in its root meaning has the idea of testing something by sunlight, testing something by sunlight. That, by the way, we don't know for sure if that's the root of **eilikrines** which is the Greek term, but it is the root of sincere which is a Latin derivative. The Latin word is **sincera** and it literally means without wax. Now let me explain what that means. A potter who was making a jar or a bowl or a plate or dish of some kind would turn it on his wheel and then when it was completed he would take it and fire it, bake it, as you know. Frequently because of some impurity in the clay or some error in judgment in terms of the temperature or whatever, it would come up with a crack. A cracked jar or pot or bowl or dish would be useless. But because of the money invested in it the unscrupulous potters would try to cover up the crack and they would take a hard wax and they would fill the crack with wax. And then they would cover it over with whatever they were using to coat or to paint the pot or the bowl. And so when any wise person went into the marketplace to buy a piece of pottery, they would typically hold the pottery up to the sunlight and rotate it to see if it was without wax because the sunlight could shine through the crack and reveal the wax...which, of course, the first time anything heated was put in it would melt and it would be discovered as useless.

A life then needs to be held up to the sunlight to determine whether it's got any flaws that are being falsely covered over by the wax of hypocrisy. That's the idea. That may well be the root of the word "sincere," that certainly is behind the Latin concept, *sincera*, which means without wax. And so just as in ancient times pottery was tested by holding it up to the sun, so our life needs to be tested as well to see if it has integrity...no flaw, no crack covered over by wax.

Romans 12:9 *Let love be without hypocrisy.*

II Cor. 1:12 For our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience that we conducted ourselves in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God, and more abundantly toward you.⁸

II Cor 2:17 For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ.⁹

Relational Integrity

I cor 10:31 Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.³² Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God,¹⁰

Roman 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.¹¹

The world sucks you in, sucks me in, here's how.

⁸ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (2 Co 1:12). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁹ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (2 Co 2:17). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

¹⁰ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (1 Co 10:31–32). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

¹¹ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Ro 12:2). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

1. Accommodation..... We just tolerate the world, sinister values, sin, wickedness. What do you mean by that? Well we stop being shocked by it, we're not shocked by it anymore. We just...we accommodate ourselves to it. We may think it's wrong, we may say it's wrong, but it really doesn't shock us, that's accommodation.

2. Legitimation. We legitimize it. How? Well we finally accept it as normal. "Oh, that's normal...that's just part of our culture."

3. Assimilation. Now we're in real danger. We personally begin to cooperate with these skewed values by saying nothing. First we recognized it, accommodation, but we weren't shocked by it. Secondly, we recognized it, we weren't shocked by it and we just sort of accept it as normal, that's legitimation. And now assimilation, we cooperate with it by never saying anything about it. It just passes off the scene, it's not even an issue anymore, we don't even discuss it. I mean, to put it simply, when's the last time you heard a preacher preach against bikini bathing suits? The culture has just assimilated that.

4. Participation. That's when you go out and buy one.... that's personal involvement in attitudes and actions. Now you don't mind, you're not only not shocked by it, you not only think it's a part of your culture, you not only don't say anything against it, You participate.

5. Amalgamation---that's where the worldly values are so fused with your values that you can't tell the difference. Amalgamation, the worldly values are so fused with your values you can't tell the difference.

6. Identification and there is no difference,

When John Wesley went away to school to Oxford, his mother wrote him a letter, This is what she said. Great wisdom she wrote to her son with these words, "**Whatever weakens your reason, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, obscures your sense of God or takes off the delight for spiritual things, whatever increases the authority of your body over your mind, that thing is sin,**" Great advice...great advice. with it.

We are to live like this until Christ Come back “day of Christ”

The day of Christ is a special term referring to the reward and the assessment of a believer's works. So we are called upon to faithfulness until the Lord Jesus comes to reward us. The day will come when we see Christ, it says we must all stand before the judgment seat of Christ, [2 Corinthians 5:9](#) and [10](#), to receive the things done in the body, whether they're good or bad, to see whether our works are gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble, 1 Corinthians chapter 3. First Corinthians chapter 4, the day when the Lord will assess the hidden things of the heart and reveal our motive and our intent, the day when we will be rewarded. So until Christ comes to reward us we are faithful never to compromise...we're faithful to maintain personal and relational integrity.

IV. **Good Works** being filled with the fruits of righteousness which *are* by Jesus Christ

being Filled-- Perfect Passive Participle

We should have fruit

This is the fruit that a righteous life produces

Karpos---- fruit,= product , results

James 3:18 ⁸ Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. ¹²

Romans 1:13 Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now), that I might have some fruit among you also, just as among the other Gentiles.¹³ = souls

¹² *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Jas 3:18). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

¹³ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Ro 1:13). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Eph 5:9 (for the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth¹⁴

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. ¹⁵

Which comes thru Jesus Christ

He is our source

John 15 5 ⁵ “I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. ⁶¹⁶

John 15:8 ⁸ By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; ¹⁷

this leads to last point

v. Glory

To the glory of God everything. God has saved us. God has made us fruitful for His glory. We are to be to the praise of His glory, [Ephesians 1:12](#), [Ephesians 1:14](#). We are to bring Him honor, bring Him glory by our life.

Col. 1:15¹⁶ For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁸

¹⁴ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Eph 5:9). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

¹⁵ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Ga 5:22–23). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

¹⁶ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Jn 15:5–6). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

¹⁷ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Jn 15:8). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

¹⁸ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Col 1:16). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

