

Philippians 1:9 – “I pray that your love may abound still more and more in the knowledge and all discernment.”

A PRAYER FOR KNOWLEDGE AND DISCERNMENT IN LOVE

The Philippians were a loving church. They had a special place in Paul’s heart. Every church should seek to emulate the Philippian church in love. Yet love must be guided if it is to be effective. Love is to be enhanced by knowledge and discernment. Love is the river. Knowledge and discernment are the banks that guide the river. Biblical love (agape) must be guided by truth. Truth and love often appear together in the New Testament. Without truth, love has no guidance. Love is the practical expression of the truths of the Bible. Love is the application of truth. Truth independent of love is dead. Love independent of truth gets out of control. If it is easy for you to love, don’t let that good run wild without truth. Like a river can dry up, so can love when it isn’t primed by the truth. Like a river that overflows its banks, so can love when it isn’t directed by knowledge and discernment. If Paul prayed for more and more knowledge and discernment in loving, so should we. When the Word of God and the Spirit of God guide love, it is the most powerful force in the world. Don’t go off on your own and let your gifts of mercy and encouragement lead you away from the gifts of leadership, preaching and teaching. “We being many, are one body in Christ, and members of one another” (Romans 12:5). Let your love grow, and let it grow in knowledge and discernment.