



THRIVING – Living an Overflowing Life 13th September 2020 Brian Greenaway

This Study Guide provides a summarised study with additional discussion questions based on the scriptures mentioned in the sermon.

Connect:

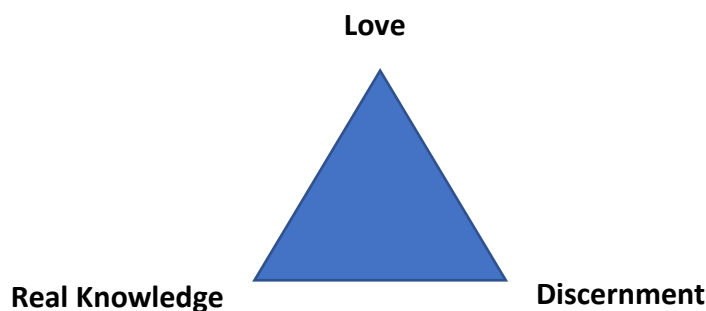
1. What do you think it means to be fruitful? And to abound in that fruit?
2. What kind of conditions do you need to grow good fruit?
3. What is Paul's underlying advice in his letter to the Philippians?

Engage:

4. Read and discuss [Philippians 1:7-11](#)
5. A concept taught by John, is that we need to 'let love be perfected.' Once in his gospel (John 17:23) and 3 times in his letters (1 John 2:5, 4:17, 18), John talks about being perfected in love. The context of that concept is in 4 areas:
 - *Unity*
 - *Obedience*
 - *Confidence (in the day of judgement)*
 - *Dealing with fear*
6. Read [John 17:23](#)
7. Read [1 John 2:5](#)
8. Read [1 John 4:17](#)
9. Read [1 John 4:18](#)
10. What is your **motivation** as a **believer**?
11. What is your **framework**?
 - We must not think of being a believer as some type of self-improvement programme. Our motivation and aspiration must be higher than that.
 - Twice in the opening of this letter Paul gives us our motivation and it is summed up in the term, 'the day of Jesus Christ'.
12. It is a well-known fact that God is a God of love. But what else is He a God of?
13. When Paul encourages and instructs the believers of Philippi to pursue a greater level of maturity, he uses the term 'the day of Christ'. What is he saying through this term?

Framework:

- Right now, we are in the **cycle of Biblical feasts** we are approaching the autumn feasts. [Leviticus 23-24](#) sets out the 7 major Biblical feasts. It is an agricultural and prophetic cycle. First 3 feasts were fulfilled in the sinless death and resurrection of Jesus. The 4th in the pouring out of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. The 5-7th will be fulfilled in the return of Jesus and the eventual new heavens and the new earth.
14. What do they all point to?
 15. As believers, will we be judged for salvation?
 16. Paul is very clear, that our lives are for one purpose. What is that purpose?
 - Our desire should be to be sincere and blameless – but it's through grace.
 17. What is the framework, the constituent ingredients for this growth?



18. Love has to abound in knowledge and discernment. So, the love has parameters. It's not just love, it is a quality checked by these two things.

"I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding."

Philippians 1:9

MEANING: **Abound** – to be always functioning
(Present active subjunctive tense)

- AT Robertson gives us a Greek word picture for verse 9: Imagine a river constantly flowing, a perpetual flood of love - more and more - but with the necessary limitations (river banks) of knowledge and discernment.
19. In our framework for Philippians, we have to see that Paul is giving us balance. If the love that we are to abound in isn't in 'real knowledge and all discernment', what will we lack?
 20. Is your love from God flowing to others?

MEANING: **Discernment** is about right or wrong, comes from a mind filled with God's love. Godly knowledge and true discernment operate together.

21. Read [Colossians 1:9](#)

22. How can you approve excellent things, unless you have an objective standard to measure them by?

23. Where does knowledge come from?

24. Are you reading the Bible thoroughly?

- We are responsible for preparing our hearts and to thrive. All has been provided to do so. Sometimes we have tough times, sometimes we come under spiritual attack. Jesus came under attack and what did He do – He quoted scripture.

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”

John 14:26

- If it's not in us – it can't come out. When we come across challenging situations, the Holy Spirit cannot bring scripture to our remembrance if we never read it in the first place.
- Paul is looking to the Philippians to bear good fruit. Fruit he calls, 'fruit of righteousness'.

“Fruit is the visible expression of power working inwardly and invisibly.

The character of the fruit being evidence of the character of the power producing it.

So, the invisible power of the Holy Spirit in our lives produces the fruit of the Spirit. It is proof of union with Christ.”

Pastor Brian Greenaway

25. Read [John 15:4-8](#) (*The invitation is to abide, to remain, to live in close loving relationship with Jesus through the Holy Spirit.*)

Prayer:

Heavenly Father my prayer today is a simple one; please help me to abide in you and to bear good fruit. In Jesus Name Amen.

Extra Resources:

Read: [*Abiding in Christ by Andrew Murray*](#)