

## Confidence *Philippians 1:1-11*

### **Mark It Up!**

2 Timothy 3:16-17

### **Today's Passage:**

- **How it all started:**  
Acts 16:6-40/ Philippians 1:7, 13  
~ Third choice ~ A tough start ~ From bad to worse.
- **A Statement of Confidence.**  
Philippians 1:3-8  
~ Notice the “*what*” AND the “*why*”:  
~ An incredibly important principle:  
The Bible wasn't written to us, it was written for us!
- **A Prayer for Discerning Love.**  
Philippians 1:9-11  
~ The loving thing is not always the obvious thing!  
~ Love needs knowledge and discernment.

### **Spiritual Confidence:**

How to be certain that God's on our side.

- **Six things we don't want to put our confidence in . . .**  
Isaiah 64:6 & Luke 18:9-14/ Ezekiel 18:1-30/ Romans 10:1-4/ Matthew 21:28-31/  
Matthew 7:21-23 & 1 John 2:3-5/ Matthew 13:18-23 & 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
  - ❶ Living up to my moral standards.
  - ❷ Sincerity & zeal.
  - ❸ A strong religious heritage.
  - ❹ Good intentions.
  - ❺ A profession of faith.
  - ❻ A good start.
- **Biblical Confidence: It's always based on the same two things. . .**
  - ❶ Faith - Trust in God's power.
  - ❷ Fruit - Evidence of God's presence.

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of January 8, 2006

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*Welcome back to the winter quarter of Growth Groups! This quarter will conclude on March 18. At this week's meeting, along with the homework, you'll share a potluck meal and review your Growth Group Covenant together. With that in mind, the homework has been abbreviated. Have a great quarter!*

## MY STORY

1. In 2006 which one of the following do you hope to experience the most and why?

- Adventure
- Relaxation
- Challenge
- Fun
- Something else (\_\_\_\_\_)

2. What was your initial response when you heard the Philippian church was probably not much bigger than some of our Growth Groups?

3. From this week's sermon, which one statement, point or insight was either most helpful or challenging to you spiritually?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. This week we saw that one thing we can always have solid confidence in is God's power to finish what He starts. However, there are plenty of times when holding onto this confidence can be a challenge. How can the following verses help us trust that God is going to come through?

### Psalm 37:23-25

If the Lord delights in a man's way,  
he makes his steps firm;  
[24] though he stumble, he will not fall,  
for the Lord upholds him with his hand.  
[25] I was young and now I am old,  
yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken  
or their children begging bread. [NIV]

### Hebrews 4:14-16

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. [15] For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are-- yet was without sin. [16] Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. [NIV]

### **1 John 3:21**

Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God [NIV]

2. We also saw that spiritual fruit (the clear evidence of God's presence already being in our lives) is a strong basis for spiritual confidence. How do the following verses describe what this kind of fruit might look like?

### **Galatians 5:22-23**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. [NIV]

### **Colossians 3:12-17**

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. [13] Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. [14] And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

[15] Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. [16] Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. [17] And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. [NIV]

Looking at these two passages, are there any areas where you've seen good growth in the past or that you particularly need to be challenged to allow God to work on in the future?

## **TAKING IT HOME**

1. Paul's interactions with the Philippians model the kind of healthy relationships and practices that can be found in a great Growth Group. Go back and re-read Philippians 1:1-11 underlining or writing out any phrases that describe or give insight into his relationship or interactions with the Philippian church. If you are in a continuing group, how are you doing in these areas? If you are in a new group, how can these be lived out this quarter in your group?

2. What do you hope to get out of your time spent in Growth Group this quarter?