

This week Sharon begins her ten part series from Philippians on "Power Verses for Transformation". Sharon begins by reminding you that it is God who wants you to know that "He who has begun a good work in you will complete it". God's aim is to produce the fruit of the Spirit; fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control, in you. One way he does this is by teaching you how to handle the people around you. You need to learn to ENJOY other people. Sharon explains that there are four lessons in Paul's letter to the Philippians that teach you how to enjoy people. Paul, himself, models what you need to do in the first chapter.

Lesson 1 (Phil. 1:1, 3) We must choose (intentionally pursue a course of action) to REMEMBER (hold before us) the BEST about a person and then FORGET (dismiss from our attention) the REST.

Lesson 2 (Phil. 1:4-6) God is not finished with people. GIVE THEM SPACE! You and all other people are in "process". God is busy forming the image of Christ in you and that takes time. Remember that God sees the flower in the seed. You just see the seed! A given amount of time must pass before the flower appears. It cannot be rushed, but when it appears, it is glorious.

Lesson 3 (Phil. 1:9-11) Learn to "enjoy" people by THANKING GOD FOR THEM IN PRAYER. As you make yourself pray positively for someone else, your attitude regarding that person will change. This is a result of your intentional choice, not your "feelings" about that person. Paul teaches in verses 9-11 to specifically pray that the other person will grow in LOVE, make WISE CHOICES, do the RIGHT THING, and LIVE FOR GOD'S GLORY.

Lesson 4 (Phil. 1:8) Be filled with GOD'S LOVE for people. Your own love is not up to the task. You need Jesus' love to fill you so that you can love the other people who you find "unloveable". As you realize how much God loves you (in spite of "everything"), you can pass that love on to the next person.

This week, will you trust God to finish the work He has begun in you and will you dare to intentionally seek to enjoy others as He works in each of them?