

## Philippians 1:1-11

## Weekly Devotional

Memory Verse: Philippians 1:6

“He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus”

There are many people in my life that I have a strong affection for. The people that come to mind the quickest are my family members. The people I think of next are my closest friends, especially those who I have joined me in passionate ministry. Some of these people I minister with daily, while others I may not see again until heaven.

My Jr. year of high school I traveled to Kenya on a missions trip with Sports Ambassadors, a basketball missions team. Fifteen teens and two adult leaders from across the country joined me. Our goal was to play basketball games against the club teams in and around the city of Nairobi (the capital of Kenya). At the half time of each game we shared the gospel and then talked more with people after the game was over. Perhaps the best memories I have of that trip were with our local contact there. We worked alongside of a ministry there called the “Watume” (“Apostles in Swahili). They were a ministry that used the sport of basketball to reach others with the gospel of Christ. For three grueling weeks, with sometimes as many as three games and one clinic a day, we worked with the Watume. During that time we shared joys and pains, ups and downs, success and failure, and everything in between. We had never met these men and women before we arrived in Kenya, but by the time we left we felt as close as family.

Often I think of the Watume as well the Americans I ministered with. I long to see them and often feel as Paul did when he spoke of the Philippians in Philippians 1:8, “God can testify how I long for all of [them] with the affection of Jesus Christ.” I often wonder how they are doing these days. Are they still ministering? Are they still together? The following passage supplies me with confidence that whatever they are doing, God is working. It also gives me a practical tool for the role I can play in their lives from half a world away.

- ❑ Who is writing this letter? To whom is it being written?
- ❑ Why does Paul always pray with “joy” when he prays for the Philippians?
- ❑ What does Paul place his confidence in verse 6?
- ❑ In Verse 9, what are the two things that Paul prays for?
- ❑ In verse 10-11, why does Paul pray this?
- ❑ The last phrase in verse 11 says, “to the glory and praise of God.” In light of verse 6, how does God receive the glory and praise in your Christian life?
- ❑ From this passage, what do you think is the thing that gives me assurance about my friends in Kenya? What is the practical tool that I can use to still be a part of their lives?

And this is my prayer: that we would minister together as a Church family as Paul did with the Philippians and that we would care and pray for each other “with the affection of Christ Jesus.” And, we do this; we can be assured that God will complete the work in us that He stated when he saved us.

***Take this week to pray for someone at JVC:***

*And this is my prayer, that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – TO THE GLORY AND PRAISE OF GOD!*