

The Pursuit of Happiness
Where Does Happiness Begin?
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I. Introduction

A. Philippians 1:1-11 (NLG)

II. I Must Be Grateful for the People in My Life.

A. *"Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God."* - Philippians 1:3 (NLG)

B. *"I thank God for the help you gave me."* - Philippians 1:5 (NCV)

C. Remember the best and forget the rest.

III. I Need to Pray With Joy for the People in My Life.

A. *"Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy."* - Philippians 1:4 (NLG)

B. The quickest way to change a bad relationship to a good one is to start praying for them.

C. What should you pray?

1. *"And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight,¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ - to the glory and praise of God."* - Philippians 1: 9-11 (NIV)

D. First, pray they will grow in love.

1. *"That your love will grow more and more."* - Philippians 1:9 (NCV)

E. Second, pray that they will make wise choices.

1. *"That you will fully know and understand ¹⁰how to make the right choices."* - Philippians 1:9b-10a (CEV)

F. Third, pray they will live with integrity.

1. *"For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return."* - Philippians 1:10b (NLG)

G. Fourth, pray that they will become like Jesus.

1. *"Filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God."* - Philippians 1:11 (NIV)

H. The fruit of the Spirit is the character of Jesus.

1. ²²*But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control. There is no law against these things!* - Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)

IV. I Must Expect the Best From the People in My Life.

A. *"And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns."* - Philippians 1:6 (NLT)

B. How does Paul bring out the best in other people?

1. He believed in people.
2. Paul gave people vision.
3. Paul was patient with people's progress.

V. I Must Love People in My Life Like Jesus Does.

A. *"For God is my witness, how I long for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus."* - Philippians 1:8 (NASB)

B. *"We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters."* - I John 3:16 (NLT)

C. *"For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."* - John 3:16 (NLT)

VI. Conclusion