

The Critical Journey
Part 1: Homeward Bound
10/22/23
Phil 1:1-11

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons:

2 *Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

3 *I thank my God every time I remember you. **4** In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy **5** because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, **6** being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

7 *It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. **8** God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.*

9 *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 for the day of Christ, **11** filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.*

I. Our Journey of Faith with Jesus...

A. The questions we bring...

1. How will I know the way?
2. What if I'm not ready?
3. What if I don't have what it takes?

B. Your Grace, Peace, My Thanksgiving, and Joy (vs 1-8)

- Holy People (Saints) together with Overseers (Elders) Deacons (Servants-Leaders)
 - church organization at the earliest
- Grace and Peace: from God the Father and Lord Jesus Christ
- Thanksgiving and Joy: because of your partnership in the Gospel
 - missional-community from the start

C. Love (agape love) that is abounding in knowledge and depth of insight... (vs 9-11)

1. Empowers us to discern what's best
(How will I know and discern?)
2. Enables us to be pure and blameless
(Will I be ready?)
3. Equips us to be filled with the fruit of righteousness
(What if I don't have what it takes?)

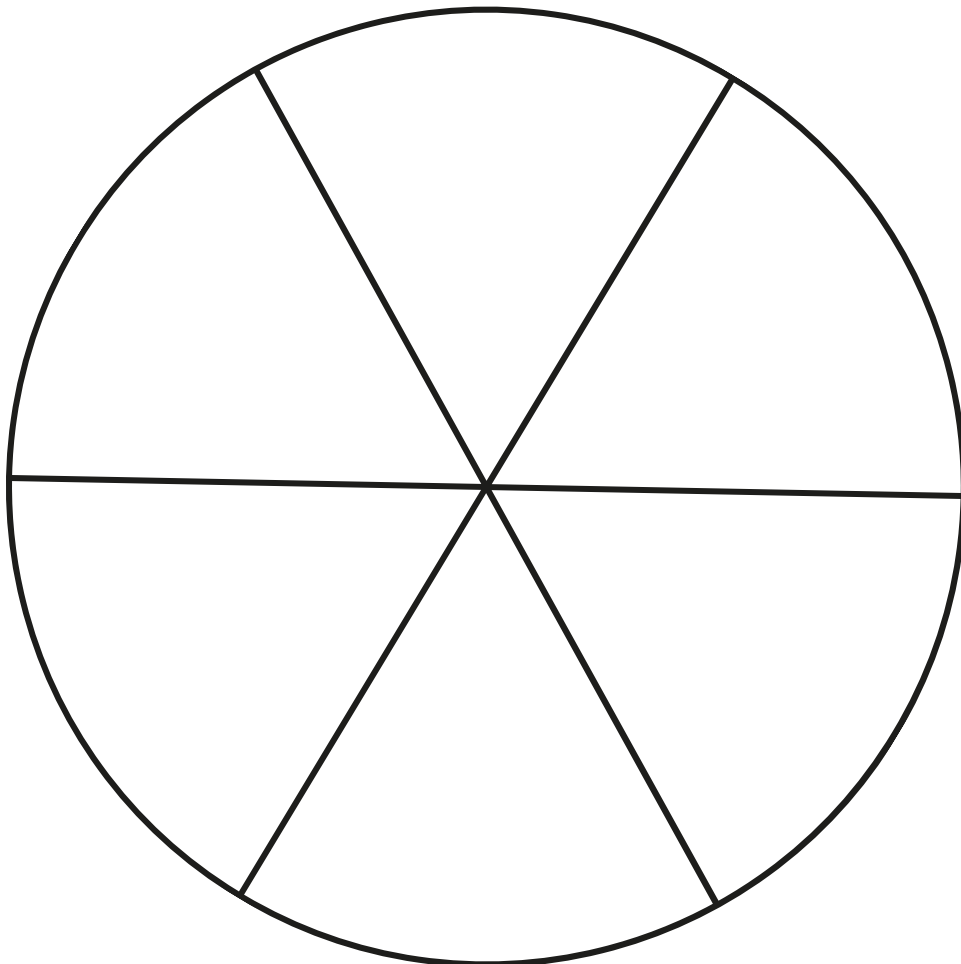
II. Our Journey is one of Transformation (vs 6)

- A. In Christ: We **HAVE BEEN** Transformed.... **Justification**
-*"He who began a good work"*
-we have been justified in God's sight by Jesus
-our right standing with God has been completed by the work of Jesus on the Cross
-2 Corinthians 5:21
- B. We **WILL BE** Transformed... **Glorification**
"to completion until the day of Christ Jesus"
-we will be glorified, made perfect, and united with Christ for eternity
-1 Corinthians 13:12
- C. We **ARE BEING** Transformed... **Sanctification**
"will carry it on"
-the ongoing process of being made into the likeness of Christ
-2 Corinthians 3:17-18

III. The Critical Journey: 6 Potential Stages in the Life of a Disciple

(Reference: *The Critical Journey* by Janet Hagberg and Robert Guelich)

- a descriptor or one's journey with Jesus, not a discipleship model.
- is descriptive not prescriptive
- helps gives language to where we often find ourselves in our faith journey



LIFEgroup Questions

Scripture:

Re-Read Phil 1:1-11

LIFEgroup Discussion Questions:

1. Looking Back: What parts of the Critical Journey Wheel might be reflected in your own journey of faith?
2. Looking Up: What idols might God be revealing in each of the first 3 stages of the journey?
3. Looking Forward: If it is the Holy Spirit who is sanctifying us, what part might he be asking us to play in the process?