

Series: Living Out Our Purpose

What Happens When We Connect With

Others - (Connect with Other Believers in Fellowship)

Philippians 1:3-8 (NIV)

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

⁷It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me.

⁸God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

1. CONNECTING WITH OTHER BELIEVERS CREATES A SENSE OF GRATITUDE.

v. 3-4 "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy..."

1 Thessalonians 3:9-10 (NIV)

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you?

¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

- God never intended for us to live life without others around us.
- Imagine a bond so strong that it produces gratitude.
- Connecting with others produces a natural concern for one another.

2. CONNECTING WITH OTHER BELIEVERS CREATES A POWERFUL PARTNERSHIP.

v.5-6 . . . "...because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now...that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

- We are called to reach the world, but we need each other to make it happen.

Philemon 1:6 (NIV)

I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.

- Our partnership with one another flows out of our partnership with God.

1 Corinthians 3:9 (NIV)

For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

- God's master plan for evangelism depends on us connecting with one another.

3. CONNECTING WITH OTHER BELIEVERS CREATES AN INCREDIBLE BOND.

v. 7-8 "It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart...all of you share in God's grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus."

Our connection with one another allows us to:

- Have strong feelings for each other.
- Share in what God is doing in our midst.
- Develop bonds that can last a lifetime.

Living out our purpose of fellowship means that we figure out how to connect with other believers so that we can accomplish the assignment God has for us together.