



MATT BLACK, Sun, October 28, 2018  
livinghopechurch.net

# 3 | PHILIPPIANS 1:7-11

## THE JOY OF LOVING ONE ANOTHER

Keys to Joyful Living

**Outline**

- I Pray for You Song*
- The Importance of Love*
- 1. OUR LOVE SHOULD BE PLENTIFUL (1:3-9A)**
  - Abound in Love
    - Commanded to Love One Another*
    - Porcupine Love*
  - Paul's Exemplary Love
  - A Prayer for Love
    - The Spy in Tertullian's Day*
    - Agape Love is Possible by the Holy Spirit*
- 2. OUR LOVE SHOULD BE PERCEPTIVE (1:9-10A)**
  - Love's Limits
    - The Banks of Knowledge and Discernment*
    - The Bank of Discernment*
  - Love's Testing what is Excellent
    - Lydia and the Jailer's Example of Love's Excellence*
    - Sloppy Agape*
- 3. OUR LOVE SHOULD BE PRODUCTIVE (1:10-11A)**
  - Love Grows Us
  - Love Affects Our Character
  - Love Brings a Harvest of Righteousness
- 4. OUR LOVE SHOULD BE PURPOSEFUL (1:11)**
  - Through Christ's Power
  - For God's Glory

## **Announcements**

1. Welcome visitors!
2. College and Career: this Friday 6:30 to 10pm at Pastor Mike and Emily's
3. PGM 6pm Sunday Nov 4
4. New Members Class Sun Nov 18, 9:30am
5. Pie Fellowship Sun Nov 18, 5pm. Invite friends and family.

## **Introduction**

Open your Bible if you will to **Philippians 1**. The title of our study this morning is: "The Joy of Loving One Another."

### *Paul Not Disconnected or Aloof*

Paul has a special relationship with the Philippian church. As I read this and studied this passage, I noticed the primary words in the passage have to do with Paul's emotions for the Philippian church: Feel, heart, longing, affection, love. Paul has a peculiar relationship with the churches that can be described by **love**. We might think that because of his important position as apostle, he was **disconnected** or **heartless**, or **aloof**. Perhaps his urgency was so great, maybe he didn't have much time for vulnerability and emotion. What we find in this passage is that Paul was not disconnected or aloof. He was passionate for God's people. He had a heart that was filled with love for those who were under his care.

Sometimes there are Christians that they are virtually devoid of emotion. They belong to what I heard someone refer to as the "First Church of Christ Frigidaire". Paul is not part of the frozen chosen. He is chosen, but he is very much thawed out, filled with the living love of Jesus!

Let's read about this display of love.

### *Scripture Reading*

Let's stand and read our passage today, Philippians 1:9-11,

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup>In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy <sup>5</sup>because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, <sup>10</sup>so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup>filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God (1:9-11).

*This is God's Word.*

Paul is moved with deep love for the Philippian believers. His affections and emotions are running over – so much so that he prays for this church in verses 3-11.

That's one of the marks of really loving one another: prayer. Most people never associate prayer with pop music, but there is an interesting country song that's been around for a few years by a guy named Jaron Lowenstein.

And it's a song called "I pray for you." It's a song based upon the bitter breakup that he had with his girlfriend, and he puts an interesting twist on prayer.

### *I Pray for You Song*

He said, *"I haven't been to church since I don't remember when. Things were going great till they fell apart again. So I listened to the preacher, he told me what to do. He said, you can't go hating on others who have done wrong to you."*

*"Sometimes we get angry, but we must not condemn. Let the good Lord do his job and you just pray for them."*

So his chorus is, *"I pray your breaks go out running down a hill."*

*"I pray a flower pot falls from a window sill and knocks you in the head like I'd like to. I pray your birthday comes and nobody calls. I pray you're flying high when your engine stalls. I pray all your dreams never come true. Just know wherever you are, honey, I pray for you."*

### *The Importance of Love*

I pray that none of us pray that way! That's the point, real prayer is soaked in love. We often say that we love one another, but do we really? Do we truly care about our brothers and sisters? Love is the distinguishing mark of a Christian.

Jesus said, "by this all men will know you are my disciples, by the love you have for one another" (Jn 13:35). The most important expression of our Christian faith is love. Love is the **hallmark of their faith**, right? He said, "now abide faith, hope, and love, and the greatest of these is love" (1 Cor 13:13).

The apostle John said, "We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers" (1 Jn 3:14).

Dwight L. Moody once said something interesting. He said, you know, a man can be a good doctor without loving his patients, or a good lawyer without loving his clients, or a good geologist without loving rocks or science, but a man cannot be a good Christian without love.

---

## 1. OUR LOVE SHOULD BE **PLENTIFUL** (1:3-9A)

---

*Christians should be growing in love more and more.*

## ABOUND IN LOVE

I love gardening. I don't get to do it a lot. But I love planting a seed and watching it grow. Today we are going to understand the power of love. It grows us into the image of Christ.

The first attribute of Christian love is this: our love should be **plentiful**. Look at verse 9 and notice the goal of Paul's prayer:

And it is my prayer that your love may **abound** more and more (1:9a).

The word "**abound**" means to super abound or to exceed a fixed number or a fixed measure. Can we all agree that it is hard to love?

### *Commanded to Love One Another*

Love is not just some robotic duty. We are commanded to love, but our love must be sincere. What would you think of my love for Jill if I told her "Happy Anniversary" and gave her flowers. And she said, "Thank you." But I said, "Don't mention it. I have to do it. God commands me to love you." That's not true love.

Should we obey God? Yes! But God doesn't just want to change our actions. He wants to transform our hearts. "Let love be **without hypocrisy**" (**Rom 12:9**). God wants our love to be genuine.

Paul it seems is referring to the specific demonstration of love to **one another** within the church. I don't think he's speaking of **loving God**, though that's of highest importance. I don't think he's speaking of **loving the world of lost people**, and that's important as well. I think he is specifically speaking of **loving God's people**, the church.

Why do I say this? Because he writes the same thing almost in **1 Thessalonians 3:12**. Let me read it to you. "May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other."

### *Porcupine Love*

So many times in marriage or in the church or anytime you get close to someone, you are going to get hurt. Remember we are all **porcupines**. How can Paul tell us to abound in love? How can our love be plentiful?

## PAUL'S EXEMPLARY LOVE

To learn to love, let's look at Paul as an example. Listen to what he tells them, vs 3-7a

I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup>In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy <sup>5</sup>because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart...

### *Love Fellow Christians as if Already Perfected*

Here's a simple way you can engender love for your brother or sister in Christ. Look at verse 3 and 6:

I thank my God every time I remember you. . . <sup>6</sup>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.

Then he says in verse 7, "It is right for me to feel this way about all of you." It's right for me to love you. It's right even though Paul is in Rome and the Philippians are **800 miles** away. Paul says, "It's only right" because of what he just said. I know what you are going to be. I know what God's going to make of you. That's one of the motives that will stir up our godly affection for one another.

Think of your believing loved one or your fellow Christian in this way when they hurt you. They will one day be perfected. They will one day be without sin. That day is coming. That's who you are and who all believers are.

We are in a process of sanctification. Your holiness is progressive. Turn to your neighbor and say, "God's still working on me!"

### *Love Fellow Christians Because They are God's Kids*

Look what Paul says in verses 7-8:

<sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

Paul says, I love you. It's right for me to love you because "I have you in my heart." I'm carrying you around in my heart. Why? Because whether I'm free or bound in chains, "all of you share in God's grace with me."

Listen to what Paul is saying. "I love you with the love of Jesus because we all partake of his grace." What grace? The grace of the gospel, of adoption. We are sharing in God's grace and favor as his kids.

You need to love your fellow Christian because God loves them. He's given his Son for you. If you see any blemish in those around you that would keep you from loving them, look at the cross. It's your sin that put Christ there. Every Christian should feel like he or she is the chief of sinners.

## *I Love You So Much it Hurts*

So then Paul says, “I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus” (1:8). **Longing** or yearning has the idea of homesickness. ‘I am homesick for you,’ he says in effect, ‘restless till we can be together again.’<sup>1</sup>

The word **affection** is also a very powerful word. Literally Paul says, “I love you with the bowels of Jesus.” The love of Christ in Paul was so powerful that it was as if as though the heart of Jesus had taken over.<sup>2</sup> This was the way people expressed themselves in ancient times. It was like saying, “I love you with all my guts.” the word *splanchna* (“bowels” or “affections”) is used as a metaphor for one’s deepest inner affections.<sup>3</sup> But this word bowels, or affection, is a very intense word. It was saying, I love you with the powerful love of Jesus. **I love you so much it hurts!** The power of the gospel is shown in the supernatural affection that it produces, not only for Jesus Christ Himself, but also for those who belong to Jesus Christ.<sup>4</sup>

### **A PRAYER FOR LOVE**

So as Paul thinks of how much he loves the Philippians, he prays that their love for each other may abound.

And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more... (1:9a).

As I said before, the word “**abound**” means to super abound or to exceed a fixed number or a fixed measure.

Local assemblies of Christians should display a loving unity not explicable along merely sociological lines. The world is separated by race, economics, and politics. Not so in the church. Our race is that we are covered with the blood of Christ. Our economics is that we have treasure laid up in heaven. Our political affiliation is that we bow our knee to King Jesus. People who have little or nothing in common on economic, social, political or ethnic bases are brought together by the Holy Spirit in unified devotion to Christ and the advance of His gospel.<sup>5</sup>

## *The Spy in Tertullian’s Day*

Interesting, one of the Church Historian's named Tertullian made mention in his writings that when the church started growing rapidly in the Roman Empire, that the government sent spies into different congregations because they were afraid that this new

---

<sup>1</sup> J. A. Motyer, [\*The Message of Philippians\*](#), The Bible Speaks Today (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1984), 54.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. 55.

<sup>3</sup> John Phillips, *Exploring Ephesians & Philippians: An Expository Commentary*, The John Phillips Commentary Series (Kregel Publications; WORDsearch Corp., 2009), Php 1:8.

<sup>4</sup> Matthew S. Harmon, *Philippians: A Mentor Commentary*, Mentor Commentaries (Great Britain; Rossshire: Mentor, 2015), 95.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

group of citizens, these Christians, would be very disloyal to the Roman government. So one of the spies, went into a church came back, and wrote this report.

These Christians are very strange people. They speak of one by the name of Jesus who is absent, but whom they seem to be expecting at any time. And my how they love Him, and my how they love one another.

Interesting that an unbelieving spy in a Christian congregation made note of the fact that *they loved one another so intensely*.

So take that little test in your mind right now. And ask yourself this, does your own love **abound**? Would that be a word that describes the expression of your love?

Think about your marriage. Is your love toward your spouse an abounding love? Or in your home toward your children, or toward your parents, or among your friends? Would you say that that is a good description of your own love experience in your life?

### *Agape Love is Possible by the Holy Spirit*

You're the kind of person that love just keeps growing and growing and abounding more and more? You say, is that even possible? Well, yes it is possible. It is possible because in Romans chapter 5 Paul said, "the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit."

The love of God has been poured out or literally it gushes out. It implies there is no limit to it at all. What that means then is that we have an unlimited capacity to love.

If you're one of those type of people, and I've met a few, who say I'm just fresh out of love, I've loved all the love out, I've got no more love to give. It's all gone now. I say, well, you need a better connection. Because the love of God gushes out, is poured out by the Holy Spirit. And last time I checked, he never ran out.

Is your heart growing bigger and bigger? The more you love Jesus, the bigger your heart will grow.

---

## 2. OUR LOVE SHOULD BE **PERCEPTIVE** (1:9-10A)

---

*Love has boundaries.*

### **LOVE'S LIMITS**

Now watch what he does. You know, Paul could have just said, in this I pray that your love may abound still more and more period. But he doesn't do that. He says:

And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment,<sup>10</sup> so that you may approve what is excellent... (1:9-10a).

## *The Banks of Knowledge and Discernment*

There are two banks for the river of love: **knowledge** and **discernment**. You see, overflowing love sounds really great, but it is like a river. And if that water has free flow without any direction or discretion, it can hurt people.

### *Illustration: Rivers of Louisiana*

A couple years ago the three rivers that surround my sister's town overflowed their banks. They had a hundred-year flood. It destroyed her home. My sister was huddled with her children in her car and someone came and rescued her. And it was all because of a river that over flowed its banks. Water is a blessing, but that much water that just flows wherever it wants to, can destroy people's lives. And so too with love. Real biblical love is not just pure emotion. Agape love is informed by the truth and knowledge of the Bible.

What is **knowledge**? To be a Christian one must come to **know** the truth. You must know and believe the Gospel that the blood of Jesus cleanses you and makes you right with God. That's **knowledge**. In order for love to be informed, we need to have knowledge.

**Discernment** is to go a step further and "grasp the significance" of something. To really love as Jesus loves, we must know how to discern and apply the knowledge of God's Word.

### *Counsel Yourself with God's Word*

Just because you "feel" something is God's will doesn't mean it is. Love has a river bank that guides it: knowledge. Biblical **knowledge** is a "lamp" unto your feet and a "light" to your path. **Discernment** helps you choose the way. You can say you love God and others, but you cannot actually love God and others without counseling yourself with the Word of God.

If you don't counsel yourself with God's Word you will just do what's in your heart man, whatever you feel like doing. That is the most dangerous, irresponsible thing you could ever do. And you would be a dangerous person to live that way. So many people allow themselves to be counseled by their selfish wicked heart. They end up in a disaster.

When we add knowledge to our love, it means we are constantly counseling ourselves with the Word of God and disregarding what our hearts are telling us.

How do we let knowledge guide our love? You can't trust your heart. Our heart of our old nature is "deceitful and desperately wicked above all things: who can know it?" (**Jer 17:9**). We are called to "trust in the Lord with all our heart and lean not to our own understanding" (**Prov 3:5-6**).

Instead, we inform our love by constantly counseling ourselves **with the Word of God**. You may feel that love is letting another Christian do whatever he or she wants to do. That's where you need knowledge. The knowledge of Matthew chapter 18 where Jesus said, "sometimes the most loving thing you can do is to confront another brother or sister." And that's love.



So mature love is not sentimentality, nor is it emotion. It has banks and the first bank is knowledge. The second is discernment.

### *The Bank of Discernment*

Love needs a direction. There needs to be discernment. Sometimes love needs to be tender. Sometimes it needs to be tough.

And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with **knowledge** and all **discernment** (1:9b)

As love grows, knowledge grows. We need to grow in our knowledge of Christ. We need to grow in “**all discernment**” as well.

Every **parent** knows this, that love is expressed in different ways at different times to the same child. One day a parent will give a **gift** to a child. Another day a parent will **spank** a child. Both are legitimate expressions of love.

Another example is that of Jesus Christ. Sometimes He'd **heal** a person, another day He would **overturn the tables** in the temple and with a **whip** drive out the money changers. Both are expressions of love but in two different contexts.

One day Jesus would say to the crowd **you are blessed**. Another day he'd look at another crowd filled with Pharisees and say, you **whitewashed sepulchers**. Both are expressions of love from the one who is the author of love himself.

### **LOVE'S TESTING WHAT IS EXCELLENT**

As you grow in love, you will grow in knowledge and discernment. And you will be able to test what is the very best to give glory to God.

As you activate a wise kind of love, you will “approve things that are excellent” (1:10). Godly love leads to a balanced life of excellence, a life engaged in the **things that matter**. We need to test and examine all things to see if they rise to the worthy standard of God's excellence.

In verse 10 we see a wonderful byproduct of love guided by knowledge and discernment: **approve what is excellent**. Excellence is referring to us mere mortals reflecting God's refulgent excellence, his glory, his beauty. Approve the things that really matter. What are you allowing in your life, your marriage or singleness, your job, your mind, your thoughts, your actions. Are you allowing things into your life that matter? Are you reflecting God's glory in everything? Do you have a life of excellence?

### *Lydia and the Jailer's Example of Love's Excellence*

At Philippi, love showed itself to be of the very essence of the new nature given to the believer. No sooner had Lydia become a Christian than she pressed Paul and his company to become her house-guests. No sooner had the jailor become a Christian than, though he had earlier fastened the apostle's feet in the stocks, he began to bathe his wounds<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup> J. A. Motyer, *The Message of Philippians*, The Bible Speaks Today (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1984), 55.

## *Sloppy Agape*

Now most of us know that the most frequently used Greek word for love in the New Testament is what, tell me? Shout it out. **Agape**.

Agape. Agape is the Greek word for love that expresses God's love for us. Generally, love for one another is to be at that supreme, superior, that's what we aspire to, agape love. Well, make sure that your agape isn't sloppy.

Don't love with sloppy agape. Sloppy agape is saying you love somebody but it's really a **selfish** love. I'm going to do something or say something because I don't want to be disliked by that person. That's sloppy agape.

---

## 3. OUR LOVE SHOULD BE **PRODUCTIVE** (1:10-11A)

---

*Excellence has a profound effect on our character*

### **LOVE GROWS US**

The effect of living a life of love is profound.

so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be **pure** and **blameless** for the **day of Christ** <sup>11</sup> filled with the fruit of righteousness (1:10-11a).

### *Christian Growth Gets us Ready for Christ's Return*

Notice there is a there is a program of growth, starting with a seed of love abounding more and more (vs 9) and ending with a harvest of being "filled with the fruit of righteousness" (vs 11). Paul takes this metaphor of growth very seriously. Why? Because Christian growth, says Paul, is for **the day of Christ**, that is, with a view to Christ's second coming. Those who are truly born again have the love of God poured into them by the Holy Spirit (Rom 5). But we have to stir up that love, getting ready for Jesus' coming.

### *Christian Growth is our Responsibility*

**Jesus can return any moment**, and we must be prepared for him. The responsibility to be **ready** for his coming is wholly ours.

Does this in any way contradict the truth we noted at **verse 6**, that salvation is all of God ("he who has begun a good work will finish it"), leaving no room for effort or contribution from us? Certainly not! Paul says later: "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure" (2:12-13).

### *Filled and Energized by the Spirit*

Remember the grace which saves is also the grace that energizes through the Holy Spirit. The free gift of salvation is a gift of new life. The Christian, saved by grace, demonstrates the authenticity of what has happened by exercising new energies in the

Spirit. Consequently—Paul prays that love may abound more and more. It is our responsibility to stir up love and affection for fellow Christians.

This is why the Word of God to all Christians is always a call to act—to work, run, imitate, to be a soldier, athlete and farmer. We are called to a life of good works planned out by God for those whom he has re-created in Christ (Eph 2:10). In other words it is by **obedience**—active, costly, personal, voluntary, disciplined obedience—that we enter into conscious experience of what our salvation in Christ means. This is why the Bible can say that God gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey him. “God has given the Holy Spirit to those who obey him” (Acts 5:32). In other words, you can recognize those who have the Holy Spirit by their lives of obedience.

### LOVE AFFECTS OUR CHARACTER

Love affects our character. When love abounds in us, we are able to test and approve and examine what is excellent, what is best. And the result is that we are pure and blameless.

so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be **pure** and **blameless** for the **day of Christ** <sup>11</sup> filled with the fruit of righteousness (1:10-11a).

**Pure** refers to our **inward** character. **Blameless** refers to our **outward** character.

The word referring to our pure inward character has to do with integrity. The idea is a sincere life. The word here means literally: “without wax.” Some of you speak Spanish. The word sincere comes from the Latin – *sin cera* – which means *without wax*. Back in the day deceitful merchants would fill in the flaws of a clay vessel – the plate or the cup – with wax to hide the cracks. The Christian is “sin cera” without wax. We live a life of integrity because the love of Christ has changed our **inward character**.

As I said before **blameless** refers to our **outward** character. Daily we put off old habits and put on new habits.

- We put off gossip and put on godly and edifying speech.
- We put off bitterness and put on tenderness, kindness, and forgiveness.
- We put off fear and put on faith.
- We put off worldliness and put on love for God.

Every day our heart and life are more and more conformed to Jesus.

### LOVE BRINGS A HARVEST OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Love brings a wonderful harvest of righteousness. When love abounds more and more, you become “filled with the fruit of righteousness.”

so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be **pure** and **blameless** for the **day of Christ** <sup>11</sup> filled with the fruit of righteousness (1:10-11a).

You say, “Pastor Matt, will I really be filled completely with the fruit of righteousness?” Sanctification is a gradual progression. It is change every day. The New

Testament compares this path of holiness to a war, a race, a harvest. A war is not won overnight. A marathon is not run in a minute. A harvest is not complete in a day.

If there were any other way, any easier path, any shorter route to perfection, wouldn't this apostle yearning with love say so? But there is no such thing, no sudden righteousness.

### *The Means of Grace*

Like any harvest with fruit, you have to water it every day. John Owen says, the Holy Spirit will not move you as a Christian until you first take hold of the means of grace.

What does he mean? You will not grow in love without those things (the means) through which God gives grace. How do we encounter God's grace? Here are a few ordinary ways we encounter God: study the Word, preaching of the Word, fellowship, baptism, communion, prayer, evangelism. We could go on and on, but this is how you are going to be "filled with the fruit of righteousness" (1:11a).

God's love through the Holy Spirit is productive in the believer's life. We are always **making progress**.

---

## 4. OUR LOVE SHOULD BE **PURPOSEFUL** (1:11)

---

*Excellence is attained through Christ alone*

### **THROUGH CHRIST'S POWER**

Paul says this purity and righteousness of life "comes through Jesus" and bring praise to God.

<sup>11</sup> filled with the fruit of righteousness **that comes through Jesus Christ**, to the glory and praise of God (1:9-11).

You say, "How can I have this life of love?" Turn your eyes upon Jesus. This life of excellence is not attainable through human power or manipulation. There must be a sincere surrender to the Lordship of Jesus. Jesus paid it all.

So come and see what God can do for you. What has he done for you. Do you see it? What has he done that would make you love him more and more? Our God is about redeeming your wrecks. He's about making beauty from ashes.

Do you know this one who is the rose of Sharon? He can make your stinking life clean and smell good, with the aroma of righteousness.

### **FOR GOD'S GLORY**

The purpose of all love as a Christian is to glorify God. You know how I know that? Because that's the purpose of all life. All of life is to glorify God. I exist to glorify God. I do.

In Revelation 4 the 24 elders bowed down saying "for thy pleasure all things were created." That's why I exist. 1 Corinthians 10, "whether you eat or whatever you do, do all for the glory of God."

Whatever you do, all things, for the glory of God. Loving is under the category of all things. Whatever you do, do all for the glory of God. So now we have the ultimate test to know if this expression of our love is approved or not. And it's simple. Does it glorify Jesus Christ?

### **Conclusion**

What joy Paul had to write the Philippian believers. That joy came from an overwhelming love not based on us. We have so many sins and mistakes. If you want to truly love someone whether they are a brother in Christ or a lost person, a family member who is hard to love, there is a way to love them. Think of them as saved and one day fully glorified.

God's still working on me. Have patience with me. Love me in spite of me. Can I tell you that Jesus was a carpenter? He is the best carpenter, isn't he? He's not done working on you. It took him just six days to make the moon and the stars, but he's still working on you and me!