

**FRIDAY, August 27, 2010:**

Philippians 1:9 *“That your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and in all discernment.”*

I'm worried. I am running the risk of going through the rest of my life being called, "Bupp"! That is what David Lee is calling me right now. Sonja and I think it is his way of saying "bubble." Lately one of the big games that Papa and grandson have been playing is blowing bubbles. (Grandchildren allow you to have a second childhood!)

I mention this because it illustrates today's bible verse. David Lee's love for me is growing. When he was first born he didn't even know he existed more less me. But as time progressed he matured enough that he began to become aware of me as something, then as someone and eventually as someone special in his life. That is how love is supposed to be, it is suppose to grow in knowledge and discernment.

Yesterday I wrote about affectionate love which is based on emotions. As good as that is, if your love stays at that level with those closest to you, you are setting yourself up for trouble. People change. They get better or they get worst. If our response to them is based on our emotions it will often get ugly.

What we must do is grow our love in wisdom and discernment. When you reach an impasse in your relationship with someone you love, that is not a time to bailout but a time to grow. Emotional and affectionate love is fun and needed, but a mature love that understands that love is about a commitment to grow lasts.

**SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 14:20**

**SATURDAY, August 28, 2010:**

Philippians 1:10 *“That you may approve the things that are excellent.”*

“You're better than that!” That is an expression I use regularly. I will use it on myself, my family and others that I see settling for lesser things.

The reason I say, “You're better than that!” is to remind myself and others that God created us for excellent things. We were not created to be animals but to reflect the dignity and glory of God. We are image-bearers of God, not beasts of burden that others can dump just anything on.

I mention this today because I believe in you and more importantly, God believes in you. No matter what others think, there is good in you. You deserve things that are excellent and you have the ability to achieve excellence. God's loved and carefully crafted creation could be no less.

So today, believe in yourself! Lift up your head, square your shoulders, step forward confidently and pursue excellence. I would expect no less from someone of your caliber.

**SCRIPTURE: Philippians 4:8**



**Pastor Kemp's Weekly Devotional**

*For the week of August 22, 2010*

Daily Reflection Questions:

- Reflection: Of what eternal benefit was my day?
- Reflection: What eternal truth(s) did I observe today?
- Reflection: Did my behavior match my values?
- Reflection: What am I thankful for today?

***What I am thankful for this week:***

MONDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

TUESDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

WEDNESDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

THURSDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

FRIDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

SATURDAY: \_\_\_\_\_



**MONDAY, August 23, 2010:**

Philippians 1:3 *"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you..."*

Day 7 in the book, "The Love Dare" tells about two rooms in our lives. One is the "Appreciation Room" and the other is the "Depreciation Room."

The temptation is to start out a relationship spending most of our time in the Appreciation Room but as the years go by and we begin to see the flaws in people we begin spending more and more time in the Depreciation Room.

As we do this, our feelings toward that person deteriorate and the joy we once experienced by being in their company fades.

The book of Philippians is about a man who is confined to a prison cell – talk about an excuse for living in the Depreciation Room – but chooses to live in the Appreciation Room. It is one of the happiest and most uplifting books in the Bible.

As I think about that today, I am reminded that we do have choices in life. We cannot control everything that happens around us, but we can choose how we are going to respond. Let's choose to spend our time in the Appreciation Room.

Oh, and by the way...today's verse could be my theme verse for my dearly loved FMCOG family. I love all you PEPpers and thank God for every remembrance of you!

**SCRIPTURE: Philippians 4:4**

**TUESDAY, August 24, 2010:**

Philippians 1:1 *"To all the saints in Christ Jesus..."*

Pastor Charles Allen tells of an old man who was a member of one of his earlier churches. The old man told of how life used to be; how very little the people had, yet how happy they were.

Then the old men told of the day the mailman left a Sears Roebuck mail-order catalog at a neighbor's house. The people began to look at it, first wonderingly and then longingly. Soon every home in the community had one of the catalogs. He would sadly shake his head as he told how they forgot the beauty of the mountains around them and turned away from the things that used to mean so much, as they turned the pages of the catalog and thought of the many things they did not possess.

Life has changed a lot since the days of the Sears and Roebuck catalog, but people have not changed. It is so easy to become consumed with things, to really feel that if we had this or that or some other something that we would be happy. But, the truth is that what we need is not "something" but "someone." Paul describes it as "being IN Christ." You can be in a mansion and be miserable, but you can be in a prison cell and be "in Christ" and have perfect peace. Bottom line, don't get distracted today, stay focused on where you will find real peace – "In Christ."

**SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:38-39**

**WEDNESDAY, August 25, 2010:**

Philippians 1:6 *"being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it."*

I have the worst luck with new cars. I remember our very first trip in one new car Sonja and I brought. We spilled a coca cola all over the new carpet.

Someone left a big dent in the door on the passenger side of the car I currently drive the very first time I drove it.

I remember seeing scuffs and marks on the wall of our new Center for Discipleship the very first day we used it.

Bottom line, we humans have a tough time taking care of things. We mean well and we try hard, but in spite of our best efforts dents, scuffs and scars start showing up very soon after something is entrusted to us.

So what to do? Whether it is your children or your car; your sofa or your soul, entrust them to Jesus. Put all that you are and all that you have in His care; He will not let you down.

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, today we dedicate our lives to you anew. Take our lives and all that is under our care and weave it into your master plan. Amen.*

**SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 1:12**

**THURSDAY, August 26, 2010:**

Philippians 1:8 *"...with the affection of Jesus Christ."*

Harvey MacKay, in his book *Beware the Naked Man who Offers You His Shirt*, writes of having lunch with an executive from one of the big milling companies. The executive's ancestors had been among the founders of the city's milling business, and he was very proud of their long historic ties to the industry and their deep roots in the community.

There was a third person at the table, a top salesman with a packaging company who was also something of a health nut, who for years had seemed to subsist on grass and twigs. MacKay was surprised when the salesman took a roll, buttered it lavishly and ate it with great relish.

Later when they were alone MacKay commented to the salesman, "That's kind of unusual for you, isn't it, Eddie?" "I mean, haven't I heard you say that sugar-fortified bakery rolls and congealed animal fat are hostile to the human body?" "Harvey, my man," he said, "When you dine with a miller, you break a roll."

I have a growing conviction that we Americans are starving for good honest affection. Affection is connecting with people on an emotional level. It's finding a way to encourage them and make them feel loved and accepted.

Like the salesman who knew how to make a baker feel good about himself, why don't you reach out to people today with the love of Christ and find a way to connect?  
**SCRIPTURE: Philippians 2:1-3**