

Faith in Action starts at home part 6

Philemon

"I keep hearing about your faith in the Lord Jesus...And I am praying that you will put into action the generosity that comes from your faith as you understand and experience all the good things we have in Christ." Philemon v 5-6

"I am writing to Philemon, our beloved co-worker... and to the church that meets in your house." v 1-2

My faith in action causes me to...

1. Acknowledge the good things I have in Christ

"...as you understand and experience all the good things we have in Christ." Philemon v 6

i. I have unbelievable Riches & blessings

"And this is God's plan: Both Gentiles and Jews who believe the Good News share equally in the riches inherited by God's children...both enjoy the promise of blessings because they belong to Christ Jesus." Ephesians 3:6

ii. I am welcome in God's presence

"Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence." Eph 3:12

iii. I am the recipient of perfecting love

"And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. ¹⁹ May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God." Eph 3:18-19

2. Overflow with love for all God's people

i. Generosity

"I am praying that you will put into action the generosity that comes from your faith..." v 6

ii. Kindness that refreshes the hearts of God's people

"Your love has given me much joy and comfort, my brother, for your kindness has often refreshed the hearts of God's people." v 7

a. Joy

b. Comfort

"Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith." Gal 6:10

3. Become more like Christ – who gave me a second chance – by receiving and giving

"That is why I am boldly asking a favour of you...¹⁰ I appeal to you to show kindness to my child, Onesimus. I became his father in the faith while here in prison. ¹¹ Onesimus hasn't been of much use to you in the past, but now he is very useful to both of us." v 9-11

"It seems you lost Onesimus for a little while so that you could have him back forever. ¹⁶ He is no longer like a slave to you. He is more than a slave, for he is a beloved brother, especially to me. Now he will mean much more to you, both as a man and as a brother in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge it to me." v 15-18

I. Have I received Christ's second chance?

II. Who do I need to give a second chance to?