



Valley Forge Baptist • January 18, 2026

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Honor the Past; Impact the Future

Philippians 1:6

Five Dynamic Gospel Launching Pad Locations

- Jerusalem – the Apostles.
- Philippi, Greece – the apostle Paul.
- Rome – Jewish Romans saved on Pentecost (went home).
- Ephesus [modern Turkey] – Paul, Apollos, Timothy, & John.
- _____ – the Apostle Thomas.

"I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Matthew 16:18

God has given government the authority to provide a safe and peaceful environment for their citizens. They can tax and regulate everything from businesses, housing, utilities, building codes, etc.

But the local church does not exist by permission from the state. The local church is given its authority to exist and grow from Jesus Christ. He said, "All authority is given unto Me in heaven and earth."

How to Impact My Church

1. _____ for your Church, Phil. 1:3-4

Pray for your church leaders and others in our church.

If you would like a copy of the Wednesday prayer list, call the office and give your name and email or email us at info@vfbt.org and ask for "Pastor's Weekly Email."

Satan and his demons attack Bible-believing churches. We are to pray for our enemy to be defeated. Pray for your leaders to be Spirit-filled, strong examples and for their protection.

Christian leaders (pastors, deacons, staff) are vulnerable:

- To criticism from others.
- Pride (if they succeed).
- Discouragement (if they fail).
- Worldly temptations (immorality, greed, laziness, etc.).
- Burnout - exhaustion trying to "please people."

Pray for the people – your church family

God's people are vulnerable to:

- Desertion, "Demas hath forsaken me..." 2 Tim. 4:10a.
- Worldliness, "having loved this present world." 2 Tim. 4:10b.
- Pride and jealousy, "Diotrephes loves preeminence" 3 Jn. 9.
- Gossip/Slander, "prating [gossiping] against us, 3 Jn. 10.
- Love of "other things over God", "left your first love," Rev. 2:6.
- Apathy, "neither hot or cold" Rev. 3:16.
- Dissension, God "hates" those who sow discord, Pr. 6:19.

2. Regular _____, 1:5

What is Fellowship?

Fellowship is a word that summarizes all of the "one anothering" commands for Christians. Fellowship is: sharing joys and struggles, caring, praying over others' needs, burden bearing, partnering in life, supporting spiritually, emotionally, and physically.

What are the benefits of fellowship?

A growing faith, combats loneliness, fulfills a purpose bigger than ourselves, builds unity, and makes ministry effective.

What happens in my heart when I stop attending church?

"[Show] hospitality one to another."

I Peter 4:

Opportunities for additional Spiritual growth and fellowship:

- Adult Bible Fellowships
- Wednesday Connect Groups
- Tues. Ladies Bible Study
- MOMS and DADS (meets monthly)
- One-on-One Discipleship (as a Discipler or a Timothy).

3. Commitment to Personal Spiritual

_____ , 1:6

“Please Be Patient With Me, God Is Not Finished With Me Yet.”

Since there is an invisible spiritual sign on our backs that says, “Under Construction: Please Be Patient!” we need to acknowledge that is also true of all of my church family (leaders and people).

**“If you are expecting perfection,
you’re in the _____ church!”**

Impatience in our hearts is usually a sign of pride, a critical spirit, or inserting myself where I don’t belong.

4. Strive for _____ , 2:1-2

In v. 1, Paul uses the first class conditional in Greek grammar which means “If this is true and it certainly is... Because this is true... Since this is true, then I want you to be likeminded, having the same love, be of one accord, and of one mind.” This is what makes God happy!

**Do you make mountains out of Molehills?
Do you strive for Unity or Demand your way?**

“In the same desert, the vulture and the hummingbird...”

Be Mature enough to Disagree in an Agreeable Manner

How do we Maintain Unity as a church?

A. Curb your urge to be _____, v. 3a

Stop doing things that cause strife, divisions, and quarrels.

B. Avoid being _____, v. 3b
“vainglory.”

“Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.”

Proverbs 13:10

C. Choose a _____ Mind, v. 3c

The pagan world did not view humility as a virtue. It described a slave; someone of low or no value.

What is a humble mind? Putting value on other people; counting others as more important than yourself. Can you think of some ways to begin to treat others as more important than yourself?

D. Start _____ for Others, v. 4

Be ready to lend a helping hand to others. Go out of your way to help others. Jesus said, "Go the extra mile to help others."

E. Keep the _____ the main thing.

5. _____ Others, 4:1-2

What's the Problem with Euodias and Syntyche?

These Two Women:

• Were bitter over _____.

(an unforgiven past offense)

• Were upset over _____.

(not getting their petty preference)

• Were angry over _____.

(a painful personal insult)

Are you dealing with... an unforgiven past offense, upset over not getting your way, or are you angry over an insult that someone said to you?

There is never a good reason for two Christians, not to be speaking to one another. The problem was not what they thought was the problem. The real problem wasn't the offense, but their pride and selfishness.

**"In essentials unity, In non-essentials diversity,
In all things _____."**

6. Be _____ to Build Up Others, 4:9-10a

"But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the Firstborn [Jesus Christ], which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant,...."

Hebrews 12:22-24

You do not have to be a church member to go to heaven, but you do need to be a part of the family of God and the "church of the Firstborn" – Jesus Christ! Choose a _____ with Jesus over rituals of the church.