

Growing in Your Testimony

Philemon 4–7

Pastor Alan Feere · Sunday Morning · August 16, 2026

INTRODUCTION

Philemon is one of the smallest books of the Bible, but it is of great importance. This letter was used in the Abolitionist movement to abolish slavery.

The name Onesimus is a common Greek slave name, which simply meant, “Useful.”

Philemon 15–16

If they were brothers... they now had the same master – Jesus Christ!

I. A _____ (vv. 4–5 & 7)

Notice how Paul begins: “I thank my God...” For what?

A. Philemon’s Testimony Towards the _____ (v. 5)

The testimony of every true believer of the Lord Jesus Christ, is faith and love towards the Saviour.

Hebrews 11:6

1 John 4:19 *We love him, because he first loved us.*

John 15:9

Can others observe your faith and love for Jesus?

B. Philemon’s Testimony Towards the _____ (vv. 5 & 7)

1 John 3:14

His love was demonstrated with compassion as he had a ministry of consolation.

But something was missing...

II. A _____ (v. 6)

Philemon 6 *That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.*

A. An Implied _____ (6a)

“May become?” This implies that he wasn’t there yet. “effectual” means active or powerful.

1. Perhaps A Lack of _____

His behaviour? His witnessing?

2. Probably A Lack of _____

Without the Holy Spirit of God making his witness powerful, he would have no effective ministry to the lost!

B. An Inner _____ (6b)

Philemon's testimony to others would become powerful if he simply acknowledged that every good thing in his life is because of Jesus Christ!

He allowed the world to think that all the good that was going on, was because of his own self righteousness. Simply put, it was pride!

III. A _____

How he dealt with Onesimus was an important step in professing to the world how Christ had changed him!

Philemon 16 *Not now as a servant, but above a servant, a brother beloved...*

An effectual (powerful) communication of our faith...

A. A _____ Life

Titus 1:16

B. A _____ Life

Isaiah 64:6 *...all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags...*

Romans 10:3; Luke 18:9–14

Crucify the Flesh and Surrender your Pride

C. A _____ Life

Ephesians 5:18; Zechariah 4:6

MY NOTES
