



Focused Living Ministries

# INGman 5

## Other Oriented The Blessings Of Bleeding

### Philippians 2:1-11

From childhood Albrecht Durer (1471-1528) wanted to paint. He left home in Germany to study with a great artist in Italy. There he met a

young man who had this same desire and the two became friends and roommates. Being poor artists, they found it difficult to make a living and study at the same time. Albrecht's friend selflessly offered to work while Albrecht studied. Then, when Durer's art began to sell, Albrecht would work while his friend studied. Albrecht agreed and studied art faithfully while his friend toiled long hours in a brick factory. One day Albrecht sold a wood-carving making enough money so his friend could now prepare to become an artist. But years of hard work making bricks had damaged his fingers so that he could no longer paint with skill and Albrecht was filled with deep sorrow for his selflessly sacrificial friend. One day he caught his dear friend praying and noticed his gnarled, broken, toil worn hands. Though he could never repay his friend for his sacrifice, he could at least "show the world his appreciation by painting his hands folded in prayer." Durer's gratitude was captured in his inspired painting that has become world famous.

*"That which costs nothing accomplishes nothing."* J.H. Jowett.

*"Where there is blessing, there must also be bleeding."* W. Weirsbe

As Paul wrote the Philippians there were false teachers advancing from without (3:1-3) and growing division from within (4:1-3). So he gave them four vivid illustrations of 'bleeding' that leads to blessing: Jesus (2:1-11), Paul himself (2:12-18), Timothy (2:19-24) and Epaphroditus (2:25-30).

What did Christ pray 4 times the night before He went to the Cross (John 17:11, 21-23)? Why was Paul concerned about the same thing (2:1-2; 4:2-3)? Where is God using you to unify His church? Where is Satan using you to divide with your lips or life? Why is this characteristic absolutely critical if we are to grow individually as INGmen and corporately as the Body of Christ?

Have you contributed to any division in the Body of Christ for which you must repent before God and repair before others? Explain.

(2:3-4) What does God teach is the number one killer of joy, unity, fellowship and growth, not to mention marriage, churches, teams, etc.? In short, what is sure to keep you from becoming an **ING** man?

(2:5-8) How did Jesus deal practically with the temptation of pride while being equal with God? List all the phrases that describe Jesus' lifestyle of sacrifice, selflessness and submission.

Paul understood that most men are willing to serve... if it doesn't cost them anything! But authentic love involves exchange, i.e., I exchange my time to shop with my wife; exchange my agenda to coach my kids; exchange my comfort to serve the homeless; exchange my reputation to care for a man on parole. What of value are you willing to exchange in order to love the way God has called you to love this week?

(2:6) Where must you loosen your grip on a right to which you have been clinging? Satan entices men to say "I WILL" (Is 14:12-15; Luke 12:15-21). Jesus leads men to say "THY WILL" (Luke 22:42). Why?

(2:7) Where can you become a servant rather than being served?

(2:8) Where is the Lord asking you to humble yourself? (Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it is thinking of your self less!)

(2:8) Where is God asking you to be obedient no matter the cost?

(2:9-11; I Pet 5:5-6; Rom 8:30) What great promises did God make to those who are willing to bleeding in order to be a blessing?