



Building Wholehearted Disciples of Jesus

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**The Leverage of Joy: A Study of Philippians
Confidence in the Future
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Philippians: The Leverage of Joy

Introduction:

- We are in a study on, what I'm calling, "The Leverage of Joy."
- We are studying through the "Manifesto of Joy", the book of Philippians.
- Philippians is Paul's personal journal on how to have a life of joy. It is my conviction that joy is a leverage in our life. No matter whether we have cancer, been divorced or struggled with various addictions, joy can be a leverage for God's abundant life.
- The past few weeks we have looked at:
 - **Leverage Point 1: Joy comes through A Love Relationship with Christ.**
 - **Leverage Point 2: Joy comes through Heart-to-Heart Connection with People.**
 - **Leverage Point #3: Joy comes through Dynamic Love.**
 - **Last week, Leverage Point #4: Joy comes through being in Christ.**

For example, four couples in our fellowship, all separately, recently said to me that they are reading and praying through Philippians and it's changing their marriage!

Philippians 1:19-26

Leverage Point #5: Joy comes through Confidence in the Future

Henri Nouwen captured Paul's heart when he wrote, *Each day holds a surprise. But only if we expect it can we see, hear, or feel it when it comes to us. Let's not be afraid to receive each day's*

surprise, whether it comes to us as sorrow or as joy It will open a new place in our hearts, a place where we can welcome new friends and celebrate more fully our shared humanity.

Paul had Confidence in the Future!!

Despite his circumstances: trouble from Rome, from the church, from pagans and from believers. While imprisoned in a dirty Roman prison, there is this confidence welling up in Paul that we can learn from.

- Paul had a Joy through an Authentic Positive Confidence in the Future!
- Paul is not deterred, as a matter of fact, he is fired up! He's brimming with confidence about the days ahead.
- Where does such confidence come from? How did Paul have a joy about the future?

How did Paul Cultivate such Positive Confidence in the face of Circumstances that were so negative?

I observe 4 Values that Paul had, that we can cultivate in our own lives:

Philippians 1:19a

For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance...

- **First, Paul had Confidence in the future because of the Prayers of the Saints**
- "I know" *oida* means that one has certainty about something. Paul was convinced that his present suffering at the hands of both unbelievers and believers would eventually "turn out for his deliverance" because of prayer! Paul had a deep confidence that it was through the prayers of the church that he would be delivered.
- For example, he is quoting directly from Job's reply to Zophar, "This also will be my salvation." Job correctly understood that his terrible suffering was not God's punishment for sin, even though some of his

friends said it was, but rather that God was working out something within Job that would result if salvation

- A few years earlier Paul had assured the church in Rome ***“all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”*** (Rom 8:28)
- Paul could see that his present suffering was temporary and deliverance would come because people were praying for him!
- Paul deeply appreciated the prayers of the saints! Paul knew that the ***“effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.”*** (James 5:16)
- To the Romans he wrote: ***Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me.*** (15:30)
- To the Ephesians he wrote: ***praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—¹⁹ and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,*** (6:18-19)
- For example, our family has seen so many breakthroughs when people have prayed for us. During my darkest times four years ago, under tremendous tension and stress, I would awake to this phenomenal peace.
- For example, this is one of many reasons you need a D Group to connect with.

Philippians 1:19

For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

- **Second, Paul had Confidence in the future because of the Provision of the Holy Spirit.**

- The word here is *epichoregia*, which translates “provision.” It means a full, bountiful and sufficient supply of what is needed.
 - The Spirit guides us when we don’t know what to do or where to turn. The Bible says that when we do not know what to say the Spirit will supply what you need.
 - The Spirit prays through us. The Bible says that when we are weak, the Spirit intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.
 - The Spirit provides us with power. The Bible says you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon us.
- Saints, we are coming into global and national events on a “road less traveled” and we will need wisdom, prayer and power!
- Paul had joy in dark times because of the “provision of the Holy Spirit.”
- We are not a people who will live long in despair. Despair is a work of the enemy to destroy our joy. Fight for joy; battle for it. Ask God to fill up your heart with His joy.
- The fruit of the Holy Spirit, the provision of the Holy Spirit, is “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness...”

Philippians 1:20-23

²⁰ according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³For I am Hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.

- **Third, Paul had Confidence in the Plans of God for his life.**

- Paul was not certain of what God’s plan was for him, whether he would live or die, whether he would succeed or not, but he was certain of God’s plan!
- God was going to accomplish His plan! Paul had a confidence that God’s power, God’s plan, God’s purposes would go forth.

Paul had made his goal that the people in Philippines would be happy and joyful—not matter what the cost.

- Paul told the Romans: ***For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. ⁸ For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living. (Romans 14:7-9)***

- “to live is Christ, and to die is gain” has no verb. It literally means: to live Christ, to die gain.”
 - Life is Christ...but death is gain! How does this work?
 - For Paul, living is Christ. His life was serving Christ and if he died, it was even better because he would be able to see face-to-face his life—Jesus
 - It is a “win win”. If God wants me to live on, I will do it with Christ, but if I’m to be executed, I will do it with joy because I get to be with Christ.
 - Paul is saying: “Even if Nero kills me, I will gain—I get Christ. But if I have to stay here, my goal is Christ in you, your joy, your happiness. Either way, Christ is magnified!”
 - That is my goal as a pastor! That every one of you would find joy and happiness in Christ. That is why all our pastors and leaders are working day and night. That is

why we started Outlier University, Teleios, The Well, Flagship, Shine, WorshipperWarrior.

- Two words: Gain and Glory! If I gain, He looks glorious.
- If I die, I gain. Joy is important here. Nothing makes Christ look more magnificent in your life than when He is your love, your passion. We can take risk in Him. This is the life of risk.
- How many people have you heard people ever say, “I saw God most closely. I experienced God most deeply. I experience God most closely when everything is going well.” NO, what you hear is “I experienced God most deeply. I experience God most closely on the worst days of my life.
- Deeper holiness through deeper faith. Deeper faith comes through deeper suffering. Suffering forms Christ in you!

2 Corinthians 1:3-5

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. ⁵ For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ.

Philippians 1:24-26

²⁴ Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you. ²⁵ And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you aloft your progress and joy of faith, ²⁶ that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.

- **Fourth, Paul had Confidence in the Progress of the Gospel.**
- Paul had a confidence in the progress of the Gospel generally and individually.

- He had a confidence that the gospel would progress in the lives of the Philippian believers.
- For example, in 1956, five young men, in the prime of their lives, all with young families, made a decision to attempt what no man had ever done—to reach a stone age blood thirsty tribe in the jungles of Ecuador.
 - They studied their movements and flew in together and reached out in love to the Auca Indians, a pregorative Quechua term meaning “savages.” Their real name: The Huorani People.
 - Within a few days they had all been slain.
 - The martyr's names are Nate Saint, Jim Elliot, Pete Fleming, Ed McCully, and Roger Youderian. Their sacrifice galvanized a whole generation of missionaries who headed to foreign fields with the slain Elliot's words on their lips, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."
 - Untold thousands have been touched and motivated by the story of these men. It was through the book, “Shadow of the Almighty” that God called me to the mission field as a college student.
 - The most amazing part of their story is what some of the wives did after their dear husbands were killed. Barbara Youderian said “God gave me this verse two days ago, Psalm 48:14. As I came face to face with the death of Roger, my heart was filled with praise! He was worthy of his home going. Help me Lord to be both mummy and daddy.” Don’t you just sing over a woman like that? Rachel, Nate Saints sister, and Elizabeth Elliot, Jim Elliots wife, went back in and evangelized the whole tribe for Christ! The movie, End of the Spear, tells their story.

- We can have a confidence that no matter our current situation, no matter how hard it is, God is going to accomplish His will through you.
- Confidence in the power and progress of the Gospel in your life, in our world, results in joy!
- Joy is ours as a result of confidence in the future! Confident that God will work out His plan in your life, through your life.

Mother Teresa once said, *Joy is prayer; joy is strength; joy is love; joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls.*