



Building Wholehearted Disciples of Jesus

Joy Breakthrough

Teacher: Steve Holt

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Philippians 2:19-30 The Joy of Bloodstained Allies

- Very few people have deep enough relationships with people that they could count on them in the deepest struggles of their lives!
- For example, when God broke me at the deepest places of my heart I wondered if I had anyone outside of my own family, but God raised up men and women in my life who showed me a listening ear and a loving heart.
- I truly believe, after 37 years of ministry, that 90% of our hang-ups, habits and hangovers could be navigated with joy and victory if you had two to three bloodstained allies in your life.
- Bloodstained allies are people in our lives who:
 - Understand your pain and won't judge you if you share your deepest regrets, sin and betrayal.
 - Understand your heart because they've been there too.
 - "Cave of Adullum warriors" from 1 Samuel 22.
 - Men and women who will defend you to the death. They have your back.
- This is what Paul is talking about here.
 - David had them and they became his mighty men.
 - Jesus had them and they changed the world.
 - The Church in China has them, the underground church that is single handedly transforming China from the inside out.
- It just might be one of the greatest joys in life—bloodstained allies!

Philippians 2:19-30

Joy Leverage #9: Bloodstained Allies in your Life

Qualities of a Bloodstained Ally:

Vs. 19-20a 1) Like-minded

¹⁹ But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. ²⁰ For I have no one like-minded,

- ***Same mission, same vision.***
 - Wholehearted Jesus disciple that will pick you up.
 - Same values; same vision, same heart.
 - They MUST be of the same mind or it will actually harm you. If you are relying on your bartender, your friends in your hobby who do not have your passion to be a wholehearted Jesus disciple, that's not what I'm talking about
 - Same minded! They want for you what they want for their lives.

Vs. 20b-21 2) Sincerely care

who will sincerely care for your state. ²¹ For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus.

- Sincere—authentic and real.
- They will listen to your anger, shame and crap.
- Let you vent and love you.
- No BS here. Folks who are real. They have nothing to hide from you, thus you do not have to hide anything from them.

Vs. 22a 3) Proven Character

²² But you know his proven character,

- Character forged in hardship and difficulties.
- A mentor of mine once said, "Don't trust anyone who doesn't walk with a limp."
- Broken people understand broken people.
 - Maybe you've gone through an ugly divorce,
 - lost a child,
 - been fired,

- struggled with some addiction.
 - Here's biggie—BETRAYAL.
- You do not need someone whose gone through the same thing, you need someone who understands what you are going through and found Christ in the pain.

Testimony: Britt?

Vs. 22b-24 4) Serve alongside in the Proclamation of the Gospel

that as a son with his father he served with me in the gospel. ²³ Therefore I hope to send him at once, as soon as I see how it goes with me. ²⁴ But I trust in the Lord that I myself shall also come shortly.

- Many will cut and run when the going gets tough but this is someone who has proved himself through continuing to serve in the mission of the Gospel.
 - Working with our children in NexGen, NexGen Jr. or the nursery.
 - Working with our youth.
 - This summer in Guatamala,
 - serving on the hospitality team,
 - painting a house this summer in Springs Initiative or our
 - cadre at Worshipper&Warrior.
 - Servant Leadership for our Facility.

Vs. 25 5) Minister to your Needs

²⁵ Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need;

- You minister to them and they minister to you. You cannot minister to someone's needs if you do not know what they are.
- The key to breaking the power of shame is vulnerability.

- Brene Brown, after researching shame and interviewing thousands of people said that only through vulnerability can we be set free from our shame:

“Vulnerability is the birthplace of love, belonging, joy, courage, empathy, and creativity. It is the source of hope, empathy, accountability, and authenticity. If we want greater clarity in our purpose or deeper and more meaningful spiritual lives, vulnerability is the path.”

Vs. 26-30 6) Sacrificial Lifestyle

26 since he was longing for you all, and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick 27 For indeed he was sick almost unto death; but God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. 28 Therefore I sent him the more eagerly, that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I may be less sorrowful. 29 Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem; 30 because for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me.

- Epaphroditus ministered to Paul when no one else did. He sacrificed his life for Paul and the ministry.
- Timothy gave up his secure life and followed Paul, becoming his armor bearer and friend. Timothy became one of Paul’s most trusted pastors.
- We are not talking about “Ivory Tower/Walking in Victory at all Times” Christians, but “bloodstained, broken but not defeated, authentic and vulnerable” Brother and sisters!

As the worship team comes up, I’m going to do something here. If you desire to have some bloodstained allies in your life, please stand.

If you’ve been betrayed and it’s been hard to forgive. God really wants to break the power of unforgiveness.