



FINDING JOY IN WHATEVER HAPPENS

Philippians 1:27-30

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INTRODUCTION

We're all on a quest for happiness, but Jesus tells us it's possible to be more than happy; we can find joy! Even when a storm hits, the book of Philippians shares tests and truths that will allow you to, "whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ." The gospel of Christ is a gospel (good news story) of JOY. That means, you CAN live in this manner! "Whatever happens," you can get through any situation, circumstance or struggle with joy. Joy is a choice, your test could become a testimony, and you can trust God with the what even if you don't know the why.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Philippians 1:27-30. Paul wrote the book of Philippians while he was in jail—in chains—under constant surveillance. Where in your life do you feel chained to something? Your prison could be your work, school or schedule, but how can you instead choose joy?
2. Tyler said the gospel (good news) of Christ is a gospel of joy. Where do you find joy in the truth of the gospel?
3. The BIG IDEA is pretty straightforward, from v27: "Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel." The first "test" that Paul mentions--the way that he would know that the Philippians were living in this manner—was that they would "stand firm" (v27b), in one spirit, in the midst of any situation...including struggles.
 - a. How and where is God calling you to "stand firm?"
 - b. Share an area/story/example where you can easily apply the TRUTH: "You don't have to understand the why in order to trust God with the what."
 - c. Read Isaiah 55:8, and share how it applies to an example from your life.
 - d. Think of a time when you asked God, "Why me?" Since we may not find the answer on this side of heaven: find a notecard, write out Proverbs 3:5-6, and put it somewhere where you will see it every day.
4. The next test Paul lists for conducting yourself in a manner worthy of the gospel (of joy) is "striving together as one for the faith of the gospel" (v27c).
 - a. How and where is God calling you to "strive for faith?"
 - b. Name a hardship or a sin that God helped you overcome. How might God be using that test as your testimony today? How can you use that experience to help another person going through a similar struggle?
 - c. Read Romans 8:28, and share how it applies to an example from above.



5. The last “test” Paul mentions in this passage has to do with suffering...and suffering well. Share an example of where you experienced suffering in the past, or where are you suffering currently.
- a. Happiness is anchored to our circumstances, but joy is anchored to our perspective. A pastor once said, “joy is 90% attitude, 10% circumstances.” And John Ortberg states, “Saying the phrase, ‘it could be worse,’ can be a powerful exercise in the development of joy.” What are some areas in your life that could be worse?
 - b. Read Romans 5:1-5. Paul tells us there that we can rejoice even when we run into suffering, problems or trials. What does Paul say we can expect to gain through suffering?
 - c. Where do you need to choose joy?

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Tyler challenged us to become the kind of person who, “whatever happens,” conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel (of joy). That means we stand firm, we strive for faith, and we suffer well by choosing joy. Share a verse that has been a go-to verse for you in challenging times.

COMMIT TO MEMORY

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel.

Philippians 1:27

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

Pray for the person on your right, and commit to praying for one another throughout the week.

Prayer is powerful!