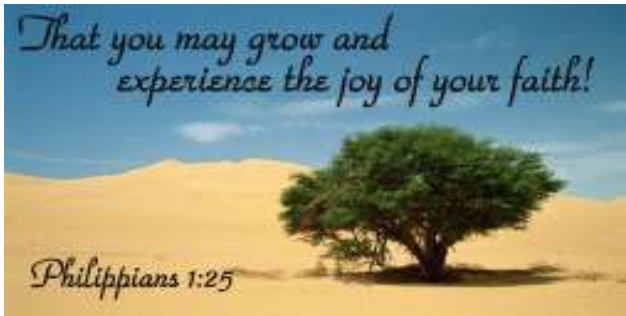


Joy of Faith



A Reason For Living?

What if your reason for living was for the 'progress and joy of faith' of another person? Self-centered or other-centered: What would you choose?

A. Christ Centered Joy Phil 1:19-21

Before I can become other-centered I must FIRST become Christ centered. **So what keeps me Christ centered?**

1. When people are praying for me :19
2. The power of the Holy Spirit :19
3. Empowered with expectation, hope and boldness :20
4. Correct view of life and death :21
 - "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain."
 - a. Many think that to LIVE is gain and to die is the LOSS of gain.
 - b. Do you see death as gain?

B. The Joy of Faith Phil 1:22-26

Paul was facing martyrdom by the Romans. To die was gain but there was unfinished work to be done. This is Paul's struggle in this passage!

1. :22 Living on would result in fruit. Paul does not mean that he had the choice of life and death—he simply is saying that he does not know which he would rather do.
2. :23 For him personally—being with Christ was better.
3. :24 For others—it would be better to stay.
4. :25 Paul is confident that 'for now' he would continue on in ministry and blessing others with the '**joy of faith.**'
5. :26 Besides '**joy of faith**' the Philippians would be filled with **JOY** for Paul.

C. Conduct Worthy of Joy and the Gospel Phil 1:27-30

No matter what the outcome would be for Paul—he desired that the Philippians would live in such a way that they reflected the life and light of Christ to the world.

1. Standing Firm 1:27
Holding fast to the truth without compromise regardless of danger or opposition.
2. Sharing in One Spirit—With One Mind 1:27
This is spiritual oneness in loving care and ministry PLUS a fearlessness in the face of persecution.
3. Striving Together 1:27-28
The picture here is of an athletic team working together with a common purpose and goal.
4. Suffering for His Sake 1:29-30
To suffer for Christ is both a command and a privilege.
Mar 8:34; Mat 11:29-30; Paul Acts 9:15-16

Philippians 1:21-30

:19 For I know that as you pray for me and the Spirit of Jesus Christ helps me, this will lead to my deliverance.

:20 For I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed, but that I will continue to be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past. And I trust that my life will bring honor to Christ, whether I live or die.

:21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

:22 But if I live on in the flesh, this *will mean* fruit from *my* labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell.

:23 For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, *which is far better.*

: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 all for 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.

:27 Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,

:28 and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.

:29 For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,

:30 having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear is in me.

Phi 1:25 Knowing this, I am convinced that I will remain alive so I can continue to help all of you grow and experience the joy of your faith.