



A JOYFUL FOCUS

Philippians 1:3-11 KJV

[3] I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, [4] Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, [5] For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; [6] Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: [7] Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace. [8] For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ. [9] And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; [10] That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; [11] Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

The church of Philippi was the first church of Europe, started at a woman's house. The book of Phillipians is a thank you note by Paul towards the people who supported him while he was in prison.

4 THINGS TO HELP US KEEP OUR FOCUS ON A JOYFUL LIFE

1. THE SECURITY OF OUR FUTURE

Salvation has a beginning, a time when you weren't saved and now you are. Once we are saved, our salvation can never be taken away. Past, present, and future sins are forgiven by God. We are a work in progress for the rest of our life after salvation but our salvation is never in doubt once we receive it from God. No matter how many times we fail, Jesus will never give up on us.

2. THE STRENGTH OF OUR LOVE

There are two pillars of strong love, knowledge, the first. Love that's based on selflessness towards someone is love that is expressed because it's built on the love of truth, the love God shows towards us. When we stop telling someone the truth, we stop loving them. The second pillar is discernment, knowledge is knowing the truth, discernment is recognizing the lies. God gives us discernment as we grow in spirit so we don't keep making the same mistakes.

Matthew 16:3 KJV

[3] And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?

Biblical discernment touches all areas of life, God uses it to teach us about him.

Psalms 139:23-24 KJV

[23] Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: [24] And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

3. A STANDARD FOR OUR DECISIONS

Don't just settle in making decisions, put people and circumstances to the test. Sift information to see truth in all things. Focus on what's important in life and ignore the petty. Do not tolerate laziness and mediocrity, always strive for excellence in decision making.

4. THE SINCERITY OF OUR HEART

We need to be comfortable with who we are in Jesus. Who we are and who we claim to be should be close together. Relational integrity is how we act in relationships from a pure heart. How can we be right with God when we act so ungodly towards others.