

# Philippians

Message Notes  
2014

# 1. One Happy Prisoner

- The primary response that God desires of us is that we delight in Him above all else!
- As you learn to experience God's love you open and clear channels in your life to experience a joyful spirit.
- God's desire is for you to have an undefeatable joy in Him even in the midst of troubled times.

Paul shares his joyful memories vs 3-11

- Paul's thoughts and memories were joyful because it was God that connected their lives at the center.
- A thankful and joyful spirit communicates God's glory toward others!
- The prayer that you most often make will reveal whether you are preoccupied with your needs or the needs of others.

I. The Nature of Love vs 9

- God's love is essentially that which gives freely without due recompense.
- Every time love is exercised it involves a decision to leave the cares of self behind.

II. The Dynamic of Love vs 9

- It is deeper being willing to reach beyond all expectations.
- It is wider having room for one and all on eternity road.
- It is fuller risking no returns on its investment

### III. The Discipline of Love vs 9

- Love knows no boundaries and assumes all risks but love without the knowledge of God revealed in Scriptures and the discernment to act wisely is destructive.

- *“For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.”*

Hebrews 12:6

- Disciplined love has the moral capacity to act convincingly and powerfully toward others.

### IV. A Joyful Anticipation vs 6

- *“for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”* Philippians 2:13

- While the greatest response you can have toward God is pure joy it is your willingness to work out your salvation in “fear and trembling” that allows for this pleasure.

- Joy is not the goal in and of itself but it is your joy in God alone that is to exceed all other delights!

*“You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”* Psalm 16:11

## 2. Good Things Happen when Things go Wrong!

- A meaningful memory is a work of God in your life that is acknowledged and is now being kept alive for the purpose of encouragement.

- When we live our lives without recognizing nor giving thanks in all things we live as blinded, dull and senseless to God's work of grace.

### Dealing with Circumstances

- God teaches and trains each one of you to move at His speed.

- God works and moves perfectly, effortlessly and strategically through the continuum of time.

- In dealing with circumstances it is often in our humiliating defeats, crippling restraints or the loss of control that we experience the joy of the Lord.

- *“For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”*

2 Corinthians 12:10

### II. God's Opportunities

- God works directly through your own circumstances.

- God works indirectly to develop boldness in the Christian community and in the world at large as they witness your life.

- People may respond to your delays, discouragements, discomforts and strategic blunders but not all responses will be godly.

### III. Confidence

- There is something that the helplessness of adversity that teach-

es us that God is able to take care of His ministry, ourselves and fulfill His word.

- Adversity brings confidence because it brings perspective.
- Paul's perspective regardless of his circumstances whether life or by death was the exaltation of Jesus Christ!

#### IV. Commitment to Ministry

- Adversities bring us to commitment in that over time they develop confidence through total surrender.
- To live as Christ is to live solely to accomplish His purposes in the lives of people and that's the road to JOY!

Conclusion: God loves to do the impossible!

- Ask God to use your circumstances for His opportunity and be available.
- Recognize that the best way to handle God is to let Him do what He wants.
- Surrender to the reality that it's either Christ and others or a meaningless useless and joyless existence.
- "To me living is Christ and dying is gain"

### 3. Triumphant Conduct

- The whole strategy of our present living ought to be the gaining of Christ.

- When your delight is fixed on God alone your joy will drive your obedient living and power it through the mere temporary trials of this life.

- To “Walk worthy of the gospel” is to live your life according to the same good news that you confessed.

#### **I. Standing Firm** – *“That you are standing firm in one spirit”*

“Stickability!”

- Faithfulness is the ability to hold your ground and see a thing through to the end.

- Faithfulness must always be viewed against the backdrop of opposition.

- Do you apply the same value of faithfulness to your Christian life as you do other areas of your life?

#### **II. Standing Convinced** – *“with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel.”*

- You must struggle, strive and work at your faith in order to capture the joy of knowing Christ!

- As you stand together in your struggle for the faith you provide a convincing passion toward others of your love for God.

- The striving that achieves depends on the combined strength that others provide.

- *“Until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure and stature of the fullness of Christ.”* Eph 4:13

**III. Standing Courageous** - *“and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God.”* Philippians 1:28

- The faith of the gospel is one of boldness and courage.
- Christian maturity is evidenced by its bold determination and courage to do what is right before God.
- Trials and troubles are the inevitable workshop that enables you to achieve the fullness and joys of Christ.

**IV. The Cost of Conduct** - *“For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now bear that I still have.”* Philippians 1:29–30

- When you have it easy you grow flabby spiritually speaking.
- Dull and lifeless Christianity is always developed in a comfortable pew.
- Suffering is God’s gift that enables you to develop the qualities that enable you to delight in God.

**Conclusion:**

*“Let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of life”*

- Stand firm, stand convinced, and stand courageous accepting and welcoming the process that enables you to delight in God Himself!
- God calls you and I to be engaged in the fight of faith.

## 4. Getting Along with Others Phil 2:1-4

- Jesus stated the absolute necessity of maintaining good relationships for the sake of the kingdom...

*“By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*  
John 13:35

Facts You Should Know And Remember!

A. You are all members of one-another.

- *“so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”*  
Romans 12:5

B. You are all being renovated. *“...being built up”*

C. You are all indwelt by the same Spirit.

- The Spirit strives with you to develop unity by killing attitudes of self centeredness and egotism.

- To give credibility to our claim of “unity in the Spirit”, we need to stop, think, and submit to God’s Word.

II. Four Influences that enable you to get along together

A. The Encouraging influence of Christ

- The presence of Christ encourages us to find solutions to conflicts.

B. The Softening Influence of Love

- *“A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”*  
Proverbs 15:1

- *“Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.”*  
1 Peter 4:8

### C. The Unifying influence of the Holy Spirit

- Fellowship is sharing that which you have in common and that “in common” are the things of Christ.

### D. The Influence of Compassion

- The real influence of justice, mercy and grace is to break up your inclination to sin, then to repent and to act accordingly.

## III. Your Actions Which Speak the Loudest.

### A. Be like minded vs 2b

- Like mindedness is possible when your minds are fixed on Christ and your wills are allowed to be softened by the Spirit of God.

### B. Behave in a mature way – vs 3a

- Maturity is the measure of being able to model Christ’s attitude and character consistently toward others.

### C. Act in Humility – *“Esteem others better than self”*

### D. Live in a Sacrificial Way – vs 4,5a

- *“For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?”* 1 Corinthians 4:7

## 5. The Humility of His Majesty

- Pride is the universal disease of the human soul.

- “Pride is the commencement of all sin”- St. Augustine

- Pride is essentially an independent spirit that does not reckon itself to be accountable to another.

- By nature pride renders the mind unsuitable for mutual love or unity of spirit.

### I. The Person of Christ in His Pre-Incarnate Glory

- The word, “form”, as used here is a visual expression that reveals the true nature of what one essentially is.

- The pre-incarnate Christ is often seen throughout the O.T. in fiery glory!

- It was His majesty and pre-incarnate glory that Christ willingly left behind in order to dwell among us.

### II. The Life of Christ

#### A. He “emptied” Himself

– To completely remove or eliminate elements of high status or rank by eliminating all privileges or prerogatives as associated with such.

- When Christ emptied Himself He relinquished the independent use of His divine attributes but He did not become something He wasn’t.

- Not only was it necessary for Christ to condescend in order to communicate but in order to identify with us in our human limitations and suffering.

#### B. Became a Servant

- *For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many.*” Mark 10:45

### C. Endured Suffering

1. It was all a necessary part of the Divine plan

- It was through His suffering and death that enabled the Father to provide His righteousness for us.

2. Death was indispensable as being the only basis for reconciliation.

- *“For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much ore, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”*

*Rom 5:10*

3. It is the indisputable evidence of His Divine love for us.

## III. The Exalted Christ

### A. Christ is Exalted

*“And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!””* Revelation 5:13

### B. All shall bow before Him

*“so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”* Philippians 2:10–11

## Conclusion

1. Surrender your claims to your own lives.

2. Take up the cross that denies your lives and accepts your death to this world.

3. Do all this anticipating the hope of eternal joy and reward.

## 6. Two Part Harmony

How does one actually go about living their faith?

I. You are to take salvation seriously!

- To work out salvation is to bring to fruition, completion or to make what God has worked on the inside show on the outside.

- To “fear and tremble” with what God has worked in is to be overwhelmed at the prospects and possibilities of failing.

1. A complacent attitude – “to be self-satisfied unawares of deficiencies or actual dangers.”

- *“Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.” James 1:21*

2. An overconfident attitude – “To be foolishly adventurist or bold”

- An overconfident attitude lacking in honest estimation of self ends up expressing itself as a contentious spirit.

II. Don’t grumble and dispute!

- The word, “grumble” means to murmur and mutter such as frustration that is cultivated internally.

- Grumbling and murmuring outwardly reflect lawlessness and rebellion against God inwardly.

- Grumbling and its articulate partner, dispute, are particularly destructive of Christian unity and testimony.

- To “dispute” means to argue irritably or with irritating persistence.

- To be “blameless” is to work on and remove those negative attitudes about you that are evident to others.
- To be pure is to always see the possibilities in problems and not the problems in possibilities.

### III. Hold fast the Word

1. To hold fast means to either hold tight or hold forward.

- *“but Christ is faithful over God’s house as a son. And we are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.”* Hebrews 3:6

2. We ought also to hold it “outward” or forward

#### Conclusion:

- God Works within You!

- *“for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”* Philippians 2:13

- God works within you for His good pleasure!

- Working out your salvation means to be careful to learn your parts and follow the conductor.

- *“He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.”* Psalm 40:3

## 7. Kindred Spirits

- *“Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.”* John 12:25

- To hate your life in this world for the sake of knowing Christ means despising any fame, fortune, or benefits this world could offer you.

- To live Christ in a fallen world is to be grieved at what grieves the Father, yet it is to behold God in the face of Jesus Christ whereby you find your delight.

God’s design for ministry

### I. God’s Design for Ministry

The Westminster confession of faith declares, “The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.”

God’s design for you is to experience growth in faith so that the demonstration of your faith results in a sacrifice of faith toward God.

The Christian life that is not centered on God’s design of spiritual discipline will conversely turn into self-centered and self-serving religion.

-God’s design for ministry is that we pour ourselves out for the sake of others.

### II. The Depth of Service Involves:

1. A desire to know the welfare of others

2. A dependency on others in the body.

- God has so constructed the body of Christ that when one hurts, we all do and when one rejoices, we all rejoice! Ro 12:15

- *“Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.”* (Romans 12:15)

3. Genuine Concern

- Genuine concern embraces sacrifice and takes whatever necessary risks to meet the needs of others.

- When we don't care enough it is always because we care for ourselves too much.

### III. The Rewards of Service

- The rewards for serving are found in the lives that you have a part in serving.

### IV. Unrestrained Enthusiasm

- If you put heart and soul into your service you might expect unrestrained enthusiasm!

- The way of sacrifice is a serious challenge to every believer as each one is called to count the cost putting one's time, energy, passions and loves on God's altar.

Conclusion: - There is joy to serve others and there is joy in serving others when you delight in the Father.

- The great joy of Paul and his companions was that their living was built out of their dying.

*"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."* Galatians 2:20

*"Why are we in danger every hour? I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day!"* 1 Corinthians 15:30–31

God grant us to see:

- The poverty of our own pursuits
- The emptiness of our own enjoyments
- The pettiness of our pleasures
- ◆ The sin of our selfishness

## 8. Authentic Christianity

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice!”

- Rejoicing is the true test of authentic faith in a real resurrected God and Savior.

### I. The Strength of Rejoicing

- Rejoicing is not just for the exceptional among us and neither is it the reward for obedience. Rejoicing is the supreme motive for faith obedience!

- Strong Christians are strong because they enjoy and rejoice in the Lord.

- Strong Christians embrace trials and tragedy fully and realistically, yet they are supported with a joy that provides inner strength.

How do you practically make the joy of the Lord your strength?

A. Acknowledge Christ’s ownership over your life.

- Making the joy of the Lord your strength is to surrender the burden of your life to His rightful ownership.

- *“For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.”* Psalm 95:7

B. Reaffirm His love for you.

- If God never answered another prayer or did one more kind deed, you would have every reason to express a continual chorus of gratitude.

- *“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,”* Psalm 103:1–2

### II. Dangers to the Believer

- It is when you joy has been displaced and centered on something less that you are left especially vulnerable.

- Dogs are unfulfilled, contentious, and joyless individuals who are looking for significance through selfish gain.
- Evil workers are those who through deceit and cunningness draw others to their side for their own selfish purposes”
- Self-made religion is attractive and powerful for it capitalizes on that which lies deepest in human nature, pride.

### III. The Reality of the Spirit

#### A. True Worship

- Whatever objects you take greatest delight in will become your objects of worship and the objects you must serve.

- *“God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”* (John 4:24, ESV)

- Man must worship God from his spirit when he worships by the Spirit of God.

#### B. Glory in Christ

- The courage to identify with Christ comes from the joyful reality of delighting in Him above all other things.

- *“More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ”*

#### C. Put no trust in self

##### 1. Posterity

- The privilege of being raised in a respected family even with a reputation for spiritual dedication and service does not transfer to oneself.

##### 2. Position

- A sincere knowledge, orthodox teaching and respect from others does not remove sin and guilt, only Jesus does!

### 3. Purpose

- Dedication, vision and enthusiasm are useless and meaningless when one is enthusiastically wrong!

### 4. Performance

- No matter how consistent and diligent one is if it is a life without faith in God's gracious provision it doesn't have a foundation.

### Conclusion:

- Authentic Christianity is essentially a relationship established by God's Spirit who turns our attention to the Son, of Whom and through Whom we see and rejoice in the glory of God.

## 9. A Passion for Knowing Christ

- How should we respond to something as valuable and costly as salvation?

*“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.” Matthew 13:44–46*

### I. A Passion for Knowing Christ vs 7,8

- *“Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.” Matthew 10:37*

- If God is not your first joy in your love relationship with others then as far as God is concerned your dealing with leftovers!

- The key to developing a passion for God is to develop an appetite for knowing Him.

Knowing Christ involves:

#### I. Time

- Considering that God is eternal and infinite in every proportion we will be spending eternity just learning about Him.

#### 2. Talk

- The more you speak with God the more you will want to speak with Him.

- The more you listen to Him through His Word the more you will desire to listen to Him through His Word!

#### 3. Trust

- It is the value of trust that enables you to experience His work and presence in your lives.

- Invest the time, learn to communicate truthfully, and take opportunities to trust and you will develop an appetite.

## II. A Pure Righteousness vs 9

- “Righteousness is a state of moral perfection required to enter heaven”
- Positional righteousness is what has been given to you by virtue of your faith in the sacrificial value of Christ’s atonement..
- “Practical righteousness” is the outworking of credited righteousness.
- If Christ is not the center of a work evidenced by your enjoyment of Him that work is bogus regardless of its goodness.

## III. The Power of His Sufferings vs 10

### A. Resurrection Power

*“..and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. {These are} in accordance with the working of the strength of His might”  
Eph 1:19*

### B. The Fellowship of His Sufferings

*“But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.” 2 Corinthians 12:9*

- *“For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”*

*Corinthians 12:10*

- The answer as to how you get close to God is through the power of God made real to you through weakness and suffering.

### Conclusion:

- You are to pursue Christ in such a way that the righteousness that He has given to you is increasingly lived out daily in your lives.



## 10. The Pursuit of His Excellency

- *“Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.”* (Philippians 3:17, ESV)

- Spiritual maturity is encouraged and taught by the proven example of others.

- To pursue His Excellency is to consider the sober reality that God calls you to pursue Him with all of your heart and soul and to determine by God’s grace to do it.

### I. A Backward Look

- The first key to looking backward is your saving encounter with Christ.

- The second key to looking backward is to forget!

- *“Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old.”* Isaiah 43:18

- *“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”*  
Isaiah 43:19a

- Neither should you dwell on the “good ole days” Ecc 7:10

### II. Paul Challenges You To An Upward Look.

#### A. Press on toward the goal.

- If you are pressing toward a heavenly goal there is neither energy nor time to press toward anything else.

#### B. Fix your goal on the prize.

- If your minds are fixed on the prize you will posture yourself more suitably to handle your present difficulties.

#### C. Know the nature of your calling.

1. The call originates with God, which provides authentic confirmation rather than man’s imagination.

- *“So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.”* Romans 9:16

2. The call indicates the direction in which you are called, upwards!

- *“For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.”* Romans 11:29

D. "Anticipate with eagerness the coming of your Lord"

- Those who have come to enjoy the Lord are those who eagerly wait for Him.

E. Look forward to your heavenly body

- Are you making a home for your body or are you planning to leave it!

III. Paul Looks Inwardly

- Your actual completeness occurs only in glory, but as you pursue His Excellency you should remember that you are as complete as you can be at the present moment!

IV. The Challenge To Look Ahead

- It is to say with all of your heart and soul by the grace of God I will press on!

Conclusion:

1. Recognize that occasionally you need a backward glance...

2. You need to confirm your upward call as to why you are in this race in the first place?

3. You need to have a proper perspective of yourselves at all times that lends itself to God's mercy and grace.

4. Resolve before God that you will by His grace press on through present difficulties in order to fulfill your ministry before Him.

## 11. “Living Together in Harmony” Phil 4:1-9

- Conflicts do not remain isolated in a church but eventually strain the peace and unity of the whole.

- The Principle: Rejoice in the Lord always!

- Rejoicing in the Lord makes it possible for those who cannot stand for something, stand when in the Lord".

### I. Rather than merely trying your best you must pray.

- "Worry is a small trickle of fear that meanders through the mind until it cuts a channel into which all others thoughts are drained.

- Thanksgiving is the affirmation of faith which looks back on previously answered prayer and the acknowledgment that God is true to His promises.

- *“God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?”* Numbers 23:19

### II. Substitute Wrong Thoughts with Right Thoughts.

A. Truth – That which corresponds to reality

B. Honorable – That which is worthy of respect or dignity.

C. Just – That which is right, admirable and noble.

D. Pure – Without moral defect or opposite being morally filthy

E. Lovely – That which causes people to be pleased with something.

F. Commendable – Something deserving of a good report.

G. Excellence – Virtue or something of outstanding quality.

H. Praiseworthy – Anything worthy of praise!

### **III. Practice doing the right thing.**

- *“If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.”* John 13:17

- Every word of Holy Scripture is God’s gift along with the gift of the Holy Spirit to bring about a miracle of change in your life....

- God redeems our lives from sinful anxiety and sinful habits in tandem with our efforts to put His principles into practice.

### **Conclusion:**

*“And the God of peace will be with you” vs 9*

1. Pray specifically about our concerns with thanksgiving.
2. Exchange our old thoughts with new ones as God reveals them to you.
3. Practice living out new habits of righteous behavior.

## 12. “What to do About Circumstances”

- Learning to delight in the Lord includes the miry bogs and the deep ‘pits’ of life and occasionally perhaps a mountain peak experience.
- Consider the ways in which people typically respond to circumstances
- Bitterness
- Heaviness
- Self Centeredness

### I. Learning Contentment

#### A. Becoming conscious of the peace of God

- *Peace is the product of adequacy.*

- *“and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” 4:7*

- *“Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1*

Thessalonians 5:23

#### B. Becoming Alert to the Purposes of God

- vs 26 *{It is} good that he waits silently For the salvation of the Lord.*

- vs 27 *{It is} good for a man that he should bear The yoke in his youth.*

-vs 28 *Let him sit alone and be silent, Since He has laid {it} on him.*

- *“Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!” Ps 46:10*

- Unless we learn to prioritize our lives for quiet times we will not be alert to His purposes nor hear His Word speak into our lives!
- It is the times of quietness and loneliness that God catches your attention.
- By learning to endure through the tough times God is preparing you to demonstrate hope outwardly to a needy community...

## **II. Learning to be Confident**

- In whatever circumstance you find ourselves you can be confident to do what needs to be done in those circumstances...
- If confidence is to be built it must be built along with the expectation of unpredictable circumstances.
- Paul's confidence was built by recognizing that in whatever condition he found himself, his resources and God granted abilities were sufficient to do whatever God had called him to do.

## **Conclusion:**

- God is in the business of making us grow up in our faith and that necessitates the ability to trust Him in any and every circumstance.....
- It is clear that circumstances are God's favorite method of causing growth.
- When God speaks of your training in righteousness that indicates not just the classroom but On The Job Training.

## 13. The Joy of Sharing

- God does not address you singularly but as always having responsibility toward others.

- Here in this passage, "Sharing", "sending", "giving", and "receiving" are all words of action toward one-another whether it involves money, substance or time.

### I. The Point of Sharing

- God provides for your adequacy which involves others sharing their resources.....

- True religion is that which is external to you.

- Biblical sharing is that which meets the needs of people at their point of need not yours.

### II. The Principle of Sharing

- Not knowing God's principles for sharing will result in failure to experience His joy.

1. Give in the way you have received, freely without charge.

2. Give in order to receive.

- *"You shall give to him freely, and your heart shall not be grudging when you give to him, because for this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake."* Deuteronomy 15:10

3. You receive more than you give.

*"give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."* Luke 6:38

◆ When we turn down opportunities to share we not only lose the joy of giving but we lose out on a profitable investment

opportunity.

### **III. The Pleasure of Sharing**

- It is the sheer pleasure of knowing Christ that leads to motivating joy and delight behind every opportunity to do His will.

- *“and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.”* 2 Corinthians 8:5

- *“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”* 2 Corinthians 9:7

When your actions stem from a joyful faith you experience even more joy.

### **IV. God’s Abundant Provision for Sharing**

- God is committed to making sure that you the giver do not go without.

- *“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.”* 2 Corinthians 9:8

### **Conclusion:**

- Will you let go your grip on those things that have their grip on you so that you can be free to begin or continue a journey of joy?

- Are you willing to do those things that are necessary to build your faith so that by doing them, God will grant and increase your joy?