

Rejoice in the Lord Always!

(A study through Philippians)

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Sermon Notes

“JOY in Stuck Points” Philippians 2:12-18

Stuck points are those chronic hurts, habits and hang-ups that won't go away but only seem to get worse through the years. If you don't deal with your stuck points, then your stuck points will certainly deal with you. God doesn't convict us (reveals our stuck points) to shame us but to satisfy us and set us free.

How to Get Through Stuck Points:

1) **Eliminate Pretense.**

v12a Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence,
Matt23:28; Gen2:24-25, 3:7-8

An authentic person...

- ✓ Is brave enough to articulate their weaknesses and strengths (self-aware).
- ✓ Is humble and teachable when someone points out a weakness. They show a willingness to learn from their mistakes. Pro13:18
- ✓ Won't play the victim but take ownership of their personal growth.

2) **Motivate your Heart.**

v12b work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,
Ps 51:4, 12; 2Cor5:14-15; Ps112:1

3) **Activate Your Faith.**

v12b work out your own salvation... 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will (desire) and to work (ability) for his good pleasure.
Ps9:9-10; Mark 8:14-21

4) **Evaluate Your Progress.**

v14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵ that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, Rom8:22-23, 26; Ps137 Sorrow; Ps140 Anger; Ps69 Fear; Ps102 Confusion; Ps22 Desolation; Ps74 Disappointment; Ps88 Depression...

5) **Saturate Yourself Biblically.**

v16 holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.
Ps119:11; Heb4:12; 1Jn1:1; Ps1:1-3

6) **Imitate Godly Models.**

v17 Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.
18 Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

1John 3:16 By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

Growing Notes

- 1) What are stuck points? What are your stuck points? When God convicts us (reveals our stuck points) it isn't to shame us but to satisfy us and to set us free. Explain.
- 2) Read Philippians 2:12-18. What stands out to you from this text? Why is eliminating pretense important to overcoming stuck points (v12a; Matt23:28)?
- 3) Why is it important to have our hearts motivated appropriately (v12 “with fear and trembling”) to overcome stuck points? What are wrong motivations and what are right motivations for life change (2Cor5:14-15)?
- 4) What does it mean to activate your faith when it comes to stuck points (vv12-13)? How is Jesus trying to activate the faith of the disciples in Mark 8:14-21? Why is it important to evaluate your progress in overcoming stuck points (vv14-15)? Why do you think unrighteous complaining is a mark of immaturity and righteous complaining a mark of maturity?
- 5) What does it mean to saturate yourself biblically (v16; Ps1:1-3)? How will this help you get through stuck points (Ps119:11)? How is the Apostle Paul a godly model we should imitate (vv17-18)? Why is it important to have Godly models? Who is the greatest godly model (1John3:16)? What are your next steps to overcome your stuck points? Pray.