



Outward Group Discussion Guide

December 28, 2025 (Silverton)

SUMMARY

This sermon challenges believers to examine whether their faith is genuinely their own or merely borrowed from parents, friends, spouses, or past experiences. Using Philippians 3:12 as the foundation, Pastor Matt emphasizes the importance of actively pressing forward in spiritual growth rather than passively coasting through the Christian life. The message confronts the danger of secondhand faith and calls listeners to pursue Christ energetically because of what He has done on the cross. The sermon addresses how true spiritual vitality is evidenced through the fruit of the Spirit rather than works of the flesh, and how joy, peace, and other spiritual qualities cannot be found in circumstances but only in making one's faith personal and owned through relationship with Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In what ways might you be living with a 'borrowed faith' rather than one you have truly made your own, and what would it look like to take ownership of your relationship with Christ?

2. Paul speaks of pressing on 'quickly and energetically' toward Christ - would you describe your current spiritual life as passive or active, and what might need to change?
3. How do you respond when life circumstances challenge your faith, and does your joy depend on what happens to you or on something deeper?
4. When you examine the works of the flesh listed in Galatians 5:19-21, are there areas where your life looks indistinguishable from someone who doesn't follow Christ?
5. What would it mean for you personally to 'make your faith your own' rather than relying on your parents, spouse, friends, or past spiritual experiences?
6. How does understanding that 'Christ Jesus has made you his own' through his blood on the cross motivate you differently than trying to earn God's approval through good behavior?
7. In what specific ways do you 'keep in step with the Spirit' in your daily life, and when do you most often ignore the Spirit's prompting?

8. Is your happiness based on circumstances (happenstance) or do you experience the Spirit's joy even when life is difficult or disappointing?
9. What spiritual disciplines or practices could you implement to 'stoke the fire' of your faith and prevent it from cooling to a tepid state?
10. If someone observed your life for a year, would they see discernible spiritual growth and fruit of the Spirit, or would they see someone stagnant in their faith?