



June 23, 2019

DIGGING DEEPER

Philippians 1:27-30

The purpose of this document is to help us
take the word beyond our Sunday gathering
and to **think through the practical**
implications of the Scriptures and then to
be intentional about living the word out.

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The Worthy Way

Philippians 1:27-28a; Matthew 5:1-11; John 17:20-23; Matthew 10:16-33

Questions Worth Asking

A Christian should conduct themselves in a way that demonstrates they are followers of Christ. This lifestyle of obedience to the law of the Lord will lead to a bride that is a faithful family and fearless in their faith. There will not be factions in a family living for the Father, but rather a oneness that defies the selfishness that plagues people. The faith that defines the life of the believer will also fuel them to be ready, willing and able to fight the good fight of faith and not back down in the face of persecution. The foundation for the Christian is to faithfully follow Christ and live with the expectation of experiencing eternal life.

1. What has shaped the way you go about living your life with others?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- Why is it so difficult to experience the oneness that Christ prayed for and Paul spoke of?
- What do you believe are contributing factors to a gathering of believers experiencing true community?
- What do you need to do differently to be a catalyst to seeing a family of faith living in faithful community with one another?

2. What persecution(s) have you endured that has caused you to respond in fear rather than lead with your faith?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- Why is it so difficult to hold on to our faith rather than be anxious in times of persecution?
- What contributed to you being fearless in a time when you were facing significant trials?
- What have been your expectations about your role in the fight for the faith?

Steps Worth Taking

Here are some **suggested steps** that will help you walk in a way that is worthy of the gospel...

1. **Read and meditate on [Matthew 5-7](#).**
2. Identify an attitude in Matthew 5:1-11 that you struggle with and be intentional about trusting God and course correcting so that you reflect an attitude that is becoming of a believer.
3. Forgive a brother or sister who has offended you and/or ask for forgiveness from a brother or sister who you have offended.
4. If you are living in fear or anxiety, identify a daily regimen that will help you stay focused on Christ. Share this routine with someone and ask them to keep you accountable.

The Sign of Salvation

Philippians 1:28b; 1 Peter 1:3-8; Hebrews 5:7-8

Questions Worth Asking

When we suffer for the Savior's sake, it will be sign for all to see, that we believe what we say about the Lord. For those that call themselves enemies of the cross, they will see our suffering as a sign of their defeat. For those of us willing to suffer for the Savior's sake, this will be a sign of our salvation. It is through the experience of persecution for the faith that our faith is demonstrated to be the real deal. A faith that is not tested is a faith that is not really rooted in God. Jesus learned (demonstrated) obedience through what he suffered. And it is in our willingness to demonstrate our obedience by suffering for the Savior that we will be able to confidently stand before Christ when he returns.

1. What does the purifying process of gold communicate to you about the purging process brought on by persecution?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- Why is it important that we be purged of attributes that don't honor God when we have come to believe in Jesus?
- What impacts have sin had on your life after coming to the saving knowledge of Jesus?
- With hindsight, how grateful are you that you were rebuked and corrected so that you can be redirected from a decision that would lead to destruction?

2. Why wouldn't you put your confidence in something that hasn't been tested?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- How have you been encouraged in your faith when you have suffered well for the faith?
- In what ways have you seen suffering encourage believers in their faith and cause nonbelievers to become curious about the faith?
- Why have you been convinced that someone was saved when you have seen them suffering for the faith?

Steps Worth Taking

Here are some **suggested steps** that will help you see your suffering as a sign of salvation...

1. **Read and meditate on [Hebrews 12:3-11](#).**
2. Recall the blessings that came as a result of having the momentary discomfort of correction purge the painful conditions resulting from sin in your life.
3. Encourage someone you know who is enduring hardship for their faith in Jesus.
4. Join with someone who is suffering for Christ (i.e. pray for them daily, write encourage notes, etc.).

Granted A Great Gift

Philippians 1:29-30; James 2:18-26

Questions Worth Asking

We have been granted the gift of being able to believe in Jesus. But believing in Jesus isn't enough to be saved by Christ. The Bible tells us that even the demons believe and tremble. Our belief in Christ must be demonstrated by our willingness to suffer for Christ's sake. Belief in Christ that leads to salvation is followed by acceptance, obedience, suffering and then reigning. Belief that doesn't include suffering is a belief absent of obedience which means there wasn't true acceptance. True faith in the Father must be demonstrated by works. We must Obey Love if we are going to enjoy the great gift that has been extended to us. Salvation is seen and sealed through suffering. It is the only way to truly open up the great gift we have been granted.

1. When was a time that you were convinced by what someone said until you saw how they lived?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- Why do words fall flat when there aren't actions that follow?
- How has a lack of responsiveness to the word of God impacted your confidence in your faith in God?
- When was a time that you saw someone behave in such a way that you thought they might be a believer?

2. How has your commitment to Christ caused you to suffer for Christ (with family, friends, co-workers, etc.)?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- What have you been willing to walk away from because you came to believe in Christ?
- In what ways have you struggled with letting go of something that the Lord has commanded you not to hold on to?
- How has your belief in God informed the way you went about making tough decisions?

Steps Worth Taking

Here are some **suggested steps** that will help you grab hold of the great gift you've been granted...

1. **Read and meditate on Galatians 5:16-26.**
2. Let go of that which is in your life that doesn't line up with the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).
3. Be willing to implement one truth that you took away from the sermon no matter how difficult it may be.

We must stop giving ourselves options when it comes to doing what God says do.