

# Where Do You Find Your Confidence

## Praying with the Philippians - Week 4

### Devotional

#### ***Day 1: Rejoicing in All Circumstances***

Reading: Philippians 3:1

#### **Devotional:**

The Apostle Paul, writing from a Roman jail, faced harsh conditions and the looming threat of execution. Yet, he encouraged the Philippians to "rejoice in the Lord" rather than in their circumstances. This highlights a profound truth: joy isn't a result of our situation but rests in our relationship with Jesus.

Despite the darkness surrounding him, Paul chose to find his joy in the Lord, teaching us that our external realities shouldn't dictate our internal state.

#### **Reflect:**

- Have you been allowing your circumstances to affect your joy and peace?
- Take time today to focus on the unchanging nature of God and His promises to you.
- Choose one thing for which you can give thanks today, even if it seems small.

## ***Day 2: Confidence in Christ Alone***

Reading: Philippians 3:2-6

### **Devotional:**

Paul warns against placing confidence in the flesh, listing his Jewish qualifications—circumcised on the eighth day, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Pharisee, and more. Despite his impeccable religious resume, Paul regards these achievements as nothing compared to knowing Christ. The Judaizers, who added laws to the gospel of grace, were labeled as "dogs" by Paul because they distracted believers from the sufficiency of Jesus.

### **Reflect:**

- What achievements or personal attributes have you mistakenly put your confidence in over Christ?
- Write a list of these, pray over it, and ask God to shift your reliance from self to Him.
- Meditate on the sufficiency of Christ's work for your salvation.

## ***Day 3: The True Value – Knowing Christ***

Reading: Philippians 3:7-9

### **Devotional:**

Paul's life was marked by a radical transformation. He recognized all his previous accomplishments and status as "rubbish" for the sake of gaining Christ and His righteousness. His focus shifted entirely from self-effort to faith-based righteousness, founded on a profound relationship with Jesus. This righteousness, Paul emphasizes, comes not from the law but through faith in Christ.

### **Reflect:**

- What does it mean to truly know Christ as opposed to merely knowing about Him?
- Reflect on your personal relationship with Jesus. Consider ways you can deepen this relationship.
- Plan an action this week that will help you know Christ more personally, such as setting dedicated daily prayer time or diving deeply into a gospel.

## ***Day 4: Fellowship in Suffering***

**Reading:** Philippians 3:10-11

### **Devotional:**

Paul speaks about the power of Christ's resurrection but closely links it with the fellowship of His sufferings. To truly know Christ involves understanding and sharing in His sufferings, which brings growth and deeper intimacy. This doesn't mean seeking out suffering, but embracing it when it comes, knowing that through it, we grow closer to Christ and become conformed to His image.

### **Reflect:**

- How have recent challenges or sufferings in your life molded you to resemble Christ more?
- Consider sharing a time of suffering with a trusted friend or mentor, reflecting on what you learned about Jesus through it.
- Pray for strength and perspective to view future challenges as opportunities for growth in Christ's likeness.

## ***Day 5: A Relationship That Costs Everything***

Reading: Philippians 3:12-14

### **Devotional:**

Receiving Jesus, Paul teaches, is both the easiest and hardest thing. It's easy because it's a free gift of grace, yet hard because it demands our all. The pursuit of knowing Christ means surrendering our lives and ambitions. Paul uses the language of striving and pressing on—indicating that following Jesus involves active, ongoing devotion.

### **Reflect:**

- Reflect on areas of your life you are still holding back from fully surrendering to Christ.
- Consider what it means for you to "press on" in your faith journey today.
- Identify one step you can take this week to prioritize your relationship with Jesus, whether it's dedicating more time to prayer, serving others, or redirecting your focus from personal gains to spiritual growth.