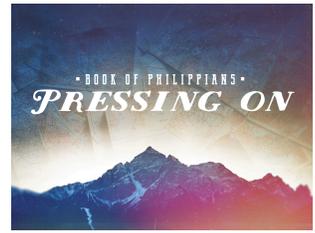


Going Deeper

Pressing On: Joy in Community

Philippians 1:1-11 / Sermon Notes



The Book of Philippians is written with great love and genuine care from the Apostle Paul to this new church. Contained in this letter is a practical guide and clear picture of what a maturing Christian and church looks like. Themes such as joy, hope, humility, unity, servant hood, and perseverance are woven throughout Paul's encouragement. Part of his warmth and affection for the church in Philippi comes from a deep appreciation for this church's partnership in his ministry. Because of this, Paul begins his letter by emphasizing the joy he has personally experienced by being connected to this thriving community of faith.

OPEN

How has God used friendships in your life to strengthen your faith?

STUDY

- Community _____ thanksgiving and comfort in adversity.
 - Thanks: "Expressing great gratitude toward something or someone."
 - "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity." - Proverbs 17:17
 - "Blessed be the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in trouble, with the comfort we ourselves are comforted by God." - 2 Corinthians 1:3-4
- Community _____ genuine expressions of joy.
 - Joy: "A contagious explosion of cheerful delight, a fruit of the Spirit"
 - "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks, for this is God's will for you." - 1 Thess. 5:16-18
 - "These things I have spoken to you that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." - John 15:11
- Community _____ godly relationships.
 - Fellowship: "Community, intimate relationship, shared participation, joint partners."
 - "As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the faith of his friend." - Proverbs 27:17
 - "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together... but exhorting one another so much more." - Hebrews 10:24-25
 - "Bear one another's burdens, admonish, comfort, edify, exhort daily, and serve one another."
- Community _____ spiritual growth.
 - Abound: "Exceed beyond borders, overflow to a greater degree." (1 Thessalonians 3:12)
 - Approve: "Purifying of metals in a hot forge." (Romans 12:2)
 - Abide: "Remain, dwell, continue with expectancy" (John 15:1-8)