Joy: Choose Joy

June 26th & 27th

Speaker: Dr. Dick Foth
Scripture: Philippians 2:1-11

Hypothesis of this message: Letting go propels us into joy

Philippians 2 - Joy that Happens When You Let Go

Philippians 2:1-2

- Be together
- Think one thing
- Do nothing out of vain conceit

Do nothing (no thing) out of empty pride because it doesn't help you, it doesn't help others, and it doesn't move the good news down the field.

Sometimes doing NOTHING is really something.

When you do nothing (no thing) out of empty pride, everybody wins!

Letting go of what?

1. Letting go of the need to be "center stage"

Rather, simply be together, work at being one

Philippians 2:1-6 (The Message)

Philippians 2:5-6

"In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage..."

The advantaged person (God) identifies with the disadvantaged (us), He comes to where we are, to fix us where we are. He doesn't let us stay where we are.

[Floyd McClung - Foundational Leader of YWAM](#)

[Hippie Trail](#)

2. Letting go of what is mine by right

[Cities Then & Now](#)

[John 1:14](#)

[Hebrews 12: 1b-3](#)

"For the joy set before Him he endured the cross" - what is the joy - it's you and me

Philippians 2:7

Jesus was bigger than the human form, but He limited himself in order to come to us - **advantaged to disadvantaged** - so that we could know the joy that comes from following Him and knowing the Father.

Sometimes NOTHING is really SOMETHING.

Jesus made Himself nothing to be with us.

Philippians 2:8

When we go the human route it leads to one thing: suffering and pain.

[Annie Johnson Flint](#)

[He Giveth More Grace](#)

An invalid, but not IN-VALID

Philippians 2:9-11

The pivot point - the cross, Jesus came to the cross to deliver us and to carry our burdens.

Galatians 6:2

Jesus let go of His glory to handle our sin and suffering.

Garden at Gethsemane - Mark 15

The outcome Jesus died for isn't necessarily guaranteed. It doesn't mean that because he died for me that I will follow him.

2 Corinthians 12:8-9

Scriptures call me to SELF CONTROL, and "BEYOND MY CONTROL" that's on God.

How do we respond to the things that we can't fix?

3. LETTING GO by trusting God with "THAT THING"

Tom Paterson - Inventor of the ATM PIN - many loved ones died tragic deaths - How do you handle all of this suffering? - **Surrender**

Surrender is the response to Suffering

Mark 15

- Suffering statement - if there is anyway take this cup away
- Surrender statement - nevertheless not my will but your will be done

On the cross

- Suffering statement - my God my God why have you forsaken me?
- Surrender statement - Father into your hands I commit my Spirit

How do I surrender?

We need to understand we live in a broken world. Pain makes us focus. When we don't understand, believe that God does. Lean hard on Jesus. Your enemy is fear. Stare it down. Where's the hope? In a good God. Joy comes in the morning and He will do what's right.

Can there be joy in spite of suffering? Yes, when we let go!

A PRAYER to PRAY: *Jesus, thank you teaching us that surrender is not giving up, but it is giving room for joy despite our circumstances. Thank you for the examples in the bible and in this message that show us that through suffering we can still and always choose joy. Teach us to give our best every day, and to trust that you will move on our behalf. The season can be painful, but it does not mean there is no joy within it. Let us be the people who despite not being able to say a word for 5 years leave others amazed that the Holy Spirit presence surrounds us and fills any area that we inhabit because you inhibit us fully and completely. Letting go is what makes choosing joy possible. Help us to never forget this truth. In Jesus name amen.*

For more info about following Jesus, go to ncc.re/followJesus

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