

Joy & Confidence in Christ

Phil 1:1-11

How many of you have on all new clothes today? For those of you who don't, would you agree they still look good and may wear a little better than when you first purchased them? So we can agree that although we wear the same clothes over and over again, they retain their usefulness.

How about a really good book, have you ever re-read a good book because it was so good that you wanted to go back and mine it for additional nuggets that you may have missed the first time?

Well, what about those who eat leftovers. Some leftovers are better the second time around because the seasoning has made it's way down deep into the dish. You may repeatedly eat it until it's complete gone and then we sit there hoping you had some more. For Sis. Nadine, this would be collard greens. For me, it's corn bread dressing, sweet potato pie and carmel cake.

As people of God, we continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior and like our favorite outfit, good book or food, it just gets better and better. We are no longer a novice in the things of God. We have been tested and tried with the impurities coming to the top to be skimmed off by the Holy Spirit. In the end it is our desire to come out like pure gold.

Phillipians 1:6 "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.:

It's exciting to:

- 1) To hear the voice of our Father speaking and
 - 2) to hear the word from our Father speaking.
- O the comfort to a hungry and thirsty soul.

When it comes to the Father speaking directly through his Holy Spirit to my spirit, now that's great joy, unspeakable joy, exuberant joy. That's the hallelujah and thank you Jesus, joy. When you experience real joy, no one will have to tell you to say thank you. You do it because of the love and gratefulness in your heart.

It's like when Jesus healed the 10 lepers and the one who was a Samaritan return and fell down before Jesus, to worship Him. It the same joy you feel when a long awaited prayer is answered. It's the same joy you feel when God has healed your body that is in pain. You are so excited, you just can't hide it.

I believe that's what David did as he rejoiced before the Lord. Scripture states, he danced out of his clothes. He was giving it up for Jesus!

Scripture background; the church of Phillipi was founded by Paul and his team of co-labours. There was a strong bond of friendship developed between the apostle and the Philippian church. This letter came from Paul, who was thought to be in prison at the time of his writing.

Vs 1-2 He starts off by saying hello to those whom the letter was written to. Paul states that every time he thought about them in prayer, he thanked God for them with joy. He was appreciative of their fellowship with him in the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ.

- Joy is an integral part of our salvation in Christ.
- It is an inner peace and delight in God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit and in the blessings that flows from our relationship with the trinity.
- Joy is associated with the salvation God provides us in Christ and with His word. Joy flows from God as one aspect of the fruit of the Spirit (Ps 16:11, Rom 15:13, Gal 5:22).
- Joy is not automatic but is experienced as we maintain an abiding relationship with Christ. (John 15:1-11)
- Our joy becomes greater when the Holy Spirit mediates a deep sense of God's presence and nearness in our lives (John 14:15-21).
- Joy is a delight in the nearness of God and His redemptive gifts cannot be destroyed by pain, suffering, weakness or difficult circumstances. Matt 5:12; Acts 16:23-25, 2 Cor 12:9).

Paul continues his exhortation by injecting life into the fiber of their being (and mine) stating that, "Being confident (persuaded) of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform (fulfill, bring it to an end, perfect, complete) it until the day of Jesus Christ."

If anybody new God, Paul knew God. Even the demons knew Paul. At one point in scripture, the 7 sons of Sceva tried casting out a demon and the demons that was in a man cried out "Jesus I know and Paul I know, but who are you."

Therefore when Paul states he was confident, you know that the basis of his confidence was real and based in Jesus Christ.

We can also have this confidence and boast in the Lord. The God of the universe who started everything, including making you, when he began a good work in you he would complete it. We didn't start the work, God started the work. Therefore it doesn't depend upon us, it depends upon him. We have one simple task, remain in Him. Don't go any where, stay with Jesus. Don't leave him for the desires of the flesh that may try to pull you away from Him. Stay...Remain steadfast, immovable...always abounding.

So I repeat again what God spoke to my spirit: Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

- I don't know what your "it" is?
- And I don't know when God will perform it or how he will perform it;
- I am confident of this, that he will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. I do know that he will do it at the right time, in the right season, so that it will be a blessing to the multitude.

God Bless You!