



Faith! Greater than Flesh

10 minutes – Greeting & Fellowship

- Light refreshments (optional)
- Welcoming and Introducing new members or visitors to the Group
- Sharing upcoming events (Conferences, Seminars, Network Meetings, etc.)

20 minutes – This Week’s Discussion

Objective: To understand the incredible power and blessing of Faith, that accomplishes what our flesh was never able or possible to complete.

Read Philippians 3:1 - 3 - The Contrast - Flesh vs Faith!

- Verse 1 may point to this being another writing on the same subject matter to the Philippian church. Paul wants them to know it is no trouble and that it is for their safety and stability.
- Titles like “dogs”, “evil doers” and “those who mutilate the flesh”, as rendered in the ESV, can be considered very derogatory and harsh. Paul is writing specifically about those who would come with a works based message of salvation or lifestyle.
- The sharp language in describing the offenders emphasizes the danger of their message!
- We must remember that we are not the circumcised in the flesh, but the circumcised of the heart. By faith we worship in spirit and glorify God!

Read Philippians 3:4 - 3:6 - Beyond our Fleshly “Qualifications”!

- Our confidence cannot be in our *flesh*, it is not about what we have or can do - it is all about faith!
- Paul details that we may think we may be able to have confidence in the works of our flesh, and ultimately lays out his “bragging rights” as an example. Paul declares he has more works than others.
- Paul then lists his qualifications, he upheld and was blameless in the eyes of the law, he was Hebrew, a Pharisee, a zealous persecutor of the Church, but it all mattered not!
- The reason that Paul was laying this groundwork, was to be able to point to the fact that Faith is, was and always will be greater than the works of the flesh!

Read Philippians 3:7 - 3:11 - Count your Gain as Loss for Christ!

- Paul’s statement in verse 7 is very powerful and should be challenging to every believer! With all the “qualifications” that Paul lists - He counts them all as loss, because they have no value in salvation!
- Verse 8 clearly defines the reason for counting all as loss - “the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus our Lord”! There is no earthly valuable or accomplishment that compares to knowing Christ!
- We must be willing to give up all things to gain Christ and the righteousness He gives through faith.
- We love to exhort about knowing the Power of His Resurrection, but Paul goes beyond just knowing the Power, but also sharing in the Suffering of Christ! This is not fun and if misunderstood could be discouraging. However any suffering we walk through will come from those rejecting Christ and the Word of God! It must be at any cost we pursue Christ and His Righteousness!



20 minutes – This Week’s Discussion Questions

Question 1: Do you understand the imbalance that we risk living in, if we do not live by faith?

- The moment we allow our lives to get away from a strong foundation of faith, we open the door to an unhealthy path of works based failures! If the imbalance gains a root system in our lives, it will not only hinder us, but it can also have a negative impact on our presentation of the Gospel!
- Just as Paul emphatically rebuked those who relied on the Law or a Salvation by works message, we can become the modern day equivalent of those rebuked.
- We must always recognize and live in the fact that faith is the foundation of our lives!

Question 2: Are there qualifications that you can potentially struggle with or rely on if you get out of balance?

- We can rely on and magnify our “works” in the Kingdom as a justification of who we are, instead of remembering it is Jesus that made it all possible!
- In times of lack we can rely on our own provision, even to the point of laying down Kingdom Purpose for 2nd and 3rd jobs, in abundance their can be the risk of a comfort zone in what we built.
- Our education, homes, jobs, eloquent speech and physical abilities outside of the protection of faith and grace, can all become “idols” in the sense that they are what we rely on and not God!
- We must count all *our* strengths as loss, for the sake of finding, following and dwelling with Christ and His Righteousness. Our *strengths* are not our own or for our gain alone - all that we are should glorify God!

Question 3: Do you battle with “counting all as loss” in gaining Christ and Building His Kingdom?

- Discuss some of the “hard things” to count as loss - who struggles with what?
- How can we help each other and keep each other accountable with these struggles?
- We MUST center our focus on the priceless “cost” of Christ and see nothing compares to its value!

10 minutes – Closing in Prayer

- Pray that each person learn and apply a lifestyle based on our lesson
- Pray that the group keeps each other accountable in doing so
- Pray prayers of agreement with individuals with prayer requests
- Close with a prayer that everything be sealed by the Holy Spirit and for safety in traveling

Post Meeting Fellowship

- Leader should collect contact information from any new attendees
- Time of Post Meeting Fellowship does not have to be restrictive but held within reason
- Good time to share testimonies
- Be sure no one feels they are *obligated* to stay if they need to go

Dismiss the Group

- Post meeting – Leader should log in to Connect Leader’s Web Report and enter attendance and any new member or visitor information then submit the data

Jubilee International Ministries – Connect Group Curriculum
Philippians Lesson 7

