

“Possessing True JOY”
Philippians: A Book Study
“Internal Bleeding”
10/19/2008

Text: Philippians 4:1-3

“^dTherefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

²I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. ³Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.” (ESV)

News Flash!! *The Church of Christ is under attack inside and out, just as Jesus predicted it would be. The assault on the church comes from three sources.*

The W _____

The F _____

The D _____

The issue of spiritual harmony is strongly on the Apostle Paul’s heart.

1. GUIDING PRINCIPLE – v.1

The idea of *standing firm* is one of the Apostle Paul’s favorite themes. Cross References:

“Stand firm in the faith...” (1 Corinthians 16:13).

“Keep standing firm” (Galatians 5:1).

“Now we really live, if you stand firm in the Lord”

(1 Thessalonians 3:8).

“So then, brethren, stand firm” (2 Thessalonians 2:15).

The BIG Q. = “What would standing firm look like?”

Consider the following:

2. SPECIFIC CONCERN – v.2 ²*I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord.*

Paul here is in a pleading, begging, encouraging mode. He understands that discord and divisiveness pose an equally crippling threat to the church as any testy doctrinal matter might.

APPLICATION POINT:

3. A REQUEST OF ALL CHRIST-FOLLOWERS – v.3

³Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.”

PT. = We are to be peacemakers as Christ-followers.

In all honesty, have these words opened an old wound that never properly healed? Is there someone you continue to blame for the hurt you’ve had to endure, pain that never got reconciled? Are you aware of the theft that is taking place of your spiritual JOY found in Christ as a result of an unforgiving heart? You must do something about it.

Start by telling God how much it hurts and that you need Him to help you forgive.