



COMMUNITY OF FAITH

UNSHAKABLE JOY

STUDIES IN PHILIPPIANS: FAITH, FEAR & REALITY MAPS

“Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ (as citizens of the heavenly realm). Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel.” Philippians 1:27

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.” Matthew 24:14

- The Christian life is not a playground, but a battleground. God has not saved us so that we can live comfortably, happily, and self-centeredly in suburbia.
- We have a mission given to us by our Commander-in-Chief, to take the message of His salvation and Lordship into enemy territory.

“...stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God.” Philippians 1:27-28

“Blessed are you when you are persecuted for My sake.” Matthew 5:10

- The fact that you are being persecuted for Christ’s sake is a proof of your salvation. It is a confirmation that God is saving and will save you.

“For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, 30 since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.” Philippians 1:29-30

1. FAITH IS A GIFT FROM GOD

“For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ to believe in him...” Philippians 1:29

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.” Ephesians 2:8.

“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28

“No man can come to Me unless My Father draws him.” John 6:44

Knowing that faith is a gift leads to assurance.

Knowing that faith is a gift leads to dependence.

“When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered, I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you. Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory. Whom have I in heaven but you?

And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.” Psalm 73:21-26

2. SUFFERING IS A GIFT FROM GOD

If we are surprised when suffering comes, then we will find it more difficult to endure it and experience the grace of God in our suffering.

To know that we are in God’s hands is to know that we are part of a great and heavenly plan and that this suffering is one small part of it.

“...that Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life or by death”
Philippians 1:20