

Spiritual assignment: Prayerfully read through the book of Philippians. (**Psalm 119:18**)

**Philippians 2:3-4** *Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.*

**Philippians 4:4** *Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!*

The **Joy of the Lord** is the peace within our hearts in knowing that we belong to God.

**Philippians 1:23-24** *For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. <sup>24</sup> Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you*

**JOY** is not the absence of problems; it's to experience the presence of the God.

**Philippians 1:21** *For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*

**Philippians 2:21** *For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus.*

**Philippians 2:14-15** *Do all things without complaining and disputing, <sup>15</sup> that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.*

**Philippians 2:19-20** *But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. <sup>20</sup> For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state.*

**Lectures to My Students by Chuck Swindoll:** (1) I cannot control everything. (2) I cannot change or fix anyone. (3) I cannot explain many things. (4) I cannot meet everyone's expectations. (5) I cannot dodge the tough decisions, questions, and assignments. (6) I cannot concern myself with who gets the credit. (7) I cannot cling to the past. (8) I cannot do what I do in the flesh or all alone.

**Philippians 4:7-9** *and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus <sup>8</sup> Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. <sup>9</sup> The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.*

**Philippians 4:14-15** *Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress. <sup>15</sup> Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. <sup>16</sup> For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities. <sup>17</sup> Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. (re: Hebrews 6:10)*

1. As a believer, I have clear commands from Scripture defining my responsibility to other believers.
2. Embracing the one-another commands is how I demonstrate my love for Christ, and how I communicate to the unsaved world that I am a genuine believer.
3. Some believers are naturally more comfortable than others in regards to getting involved in community. Therefore those who have a more difficult time will need to rely on Christ in a greater way.
4. Everyone who gets involved with fellow believers soon discovers it can get messy, feelings get hurt, misunderstandings occur, and expectations go unmet.
5. It “appears” safer and easier to do the “faith walk” alone rather than in community. However, this is in direct opposition to the teachings of Christ.
6. Though committed to Christ, I still have potential to do great harm to myself and my most important relationships.
7. In doing community, I will be tempted to make relationships either *less* or *more* than God intends.
8. Disappointment from within the community of believers is inevitable; disobedience on my part is optional!
9. Every painful experience within community is designed to drive me to my end and lead me to God’s grace.
10. God has a bigger agenda for community than I do. He wants to give me what I truly need, not my perceived need.
11. God-honoring, commandment obeying, joy providing community takes great effort and patience.
12. Every time I am sinned against in my relationships, it provides me an opportunity to **glorify God**, express **my love for Christ**, and reveal **my commitment to Scripture**.
13. When faced with conflict within community, I am tempted to handle it with human wisdom and techniques.
14. Our own personal struggle with inward sin is made evident when we do community, and that is the reason many believers do not get involved.
15. God does *not* ignore the bad things that people do to me.
16. Community brings the *greatest satisfaction* when I enter it *not* to please myself or even others, but when I enter it to please God.
17. In resolving problems in community, I must start with God’s revealed truth.
18. God purposefully fills His Church with diversity to better equip believers and to bring Himself greater glory.
19. I cannot take Christ seriously without taking His Church seriously.
20. When *Church-life* is done out of selfish motives, then community turns into fellow believers becoming either obstacles that hinder my personal agenda or instruments to advance them.
21. Both my most joyous times *and* my deepest disappointments come from getting involved in community.
22. Frankly stated, community makes me vulnerable to getting hurt and being exposed.
23. Each of us will be tempted at some point to question Christ’s model of community.
24. It matters to God what we think about and how we treat others.
25. Community is important to Christ and that is enough to make it important to me.

(The above statements are adapted from Paul Tripp’s book – *Relationships, A Mess Worth Making*)