***THE JOY OF KNOWING GOD: 6 MEDITATIONS IN PHILIPPIANS***

**MEDITATION 6: THE JOY OF EXPERIENCE**

**FOUNDATION: GOD IS BOTH THE SOURCE AND THE OBJECT OF OUR JOY**

JOY IS THE ORIENTATION OF MY HEART, THAT IS,

A CONTINUOUS GAZE OF MY SOUL UPON A SAVING GOD.

**THE JOY OF TRANSFORMATION: PHILIPPIANS 1:3 – 7**

**WHO I WAS / WHO I AM BECOMING**

**2 PETER 1:5 – 11 ESV**

*For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualitiesare yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

**THE JOY OF CERTAINTY: PHILIPPIANS 1:18b – 30**

**OUR KNOWABLE GOD – IN CREATION, IN HIS WORD AND IN HIS SON**

**FAITH IS HOW I RESPOND TO THAT WHICH IS KNOWABLE**

**JAMES 2:18 - 20 ESV**

*But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.**You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?*

**THE JOY OF HUMILITY: PHILIPPIANS 2:1 – 8**

**HUMILITY – THE MIND OF CHRIST / CONFORMED TO HIS IMAGE**

**LUKE 22:24 – 27 ESV**

*A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. And he said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves.* *For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves.*

**THE JOY OF WORSHIP: PHILIPPIANS 2:5 – 11**

**WORSHIP: ASCRIBE** / **ATTRIBUTE** HONOR, REVERENCE and RESPECT

**WORSHIP: ADORE** / **LOVE** with DEVOTION and SINGULAR AFFECTION

**WORSHIP: SUBMIT** **(TRUST)** and **OBEY**

**WORTHINESS OF CHRIST: THEREFORE GOD HAS HIGHLY EXALTED**

**REVELATION 19:11 – 13 ESV**

*Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped inblood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God.*

**THE JOY OF SUFFERING: PHILIPPIANS 3:7 – 4:1**

**THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SUFFERINGS**

**THE UPWARD CALL OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS**

**SO STAND FAST IN THE LORD**

**1 PETER 5:8 – 11 ESV**

*Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

**THE JOY OF EXPERIENCE**

**PHILIPPIANS 4:10 – 13 ESV**

*I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*

**PHILIPPIANS 4:10 – 13 NKJV**

*But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last yourcare for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.**I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

***I HAVE LEARNED*** *– \**to learn is to gain or acquire knowledge and understanding by study, experience or observation or to acquire skill in anything; to gain by practice \*Merriam Webster 1828

**HEBREWS 5:11 – 14 ESV**

*About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is* ***unskilled in the word of righteousness****, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for* ***those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.***

***I KNOW*** *how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.*

**PROVERBS 1:2 – 7 ESV**

*To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight,*

*to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity;
to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth—
Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance,*

*to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles.*

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

**EPHESIANS 4:17 – 24 ESV**

*Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus,**to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.*

***I CAN DO*** *all things through him (Christ) who strengthens me.*

**JOHN 15:1 – 11 ESV**

*I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.* *Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.*

**EPHESIANS 6:10 – 13 ESV**

*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.*

**DISCIPLESHIP GROUP TIME:**

What have you learned about God over the last six weeks?

What have you learned about joy through your experience(s) of and with Jesus?

How does knowing God (Father, Son and Spirit) bring joy?

**HOMEWORK: READ through PHILIPPIANS at least THREE TIMES over course of the next several weeks. Choose 2 or 3 of the passages above on which to meditate.**

**Answer these questions for yourself: What have you learned about God in the Scriptures we have studied over the last six weeks? What have you learned about God through the experience of Him? What have you learned about who you are in Christ Jesus? How does knowing God bring JOY?**