

Welcome!

- ✓ *Grab a cup of coffee and breakfast.*
- ✓ *Say hello to someone you don't know.*
- ✓ *We'll gather at 10:20am.*

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Preparing our Hearts for Worship

Psalm 27:1-6

1 “The Lord is my light and my salvation - whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life - of whom shall I be afraid? 2 When the wicked advance against me to devour me, it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall. 3 Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.

4 One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

5 For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock. 6 Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the Lord.”

joy
in the
journey

Paul's letter to the
Philippians



Philippians Overview

Theme: “*The Joy of Lord*”

Outline by Warren Wiersbe:

- I. The Single Mind (Philippians 1)
- II. The Submissive Mind (Philippians 2)
- III. The Spiritual Mind (Philippians 3)
- IV. The Secure Mind (Philippians 4)

TODAY... “The Community of Joy”

Text: *Philippians 1:27-30*

Outline: Advancing the Gospel together through:

1. Character
2. Courage
3. Crisis

Europe



Africa



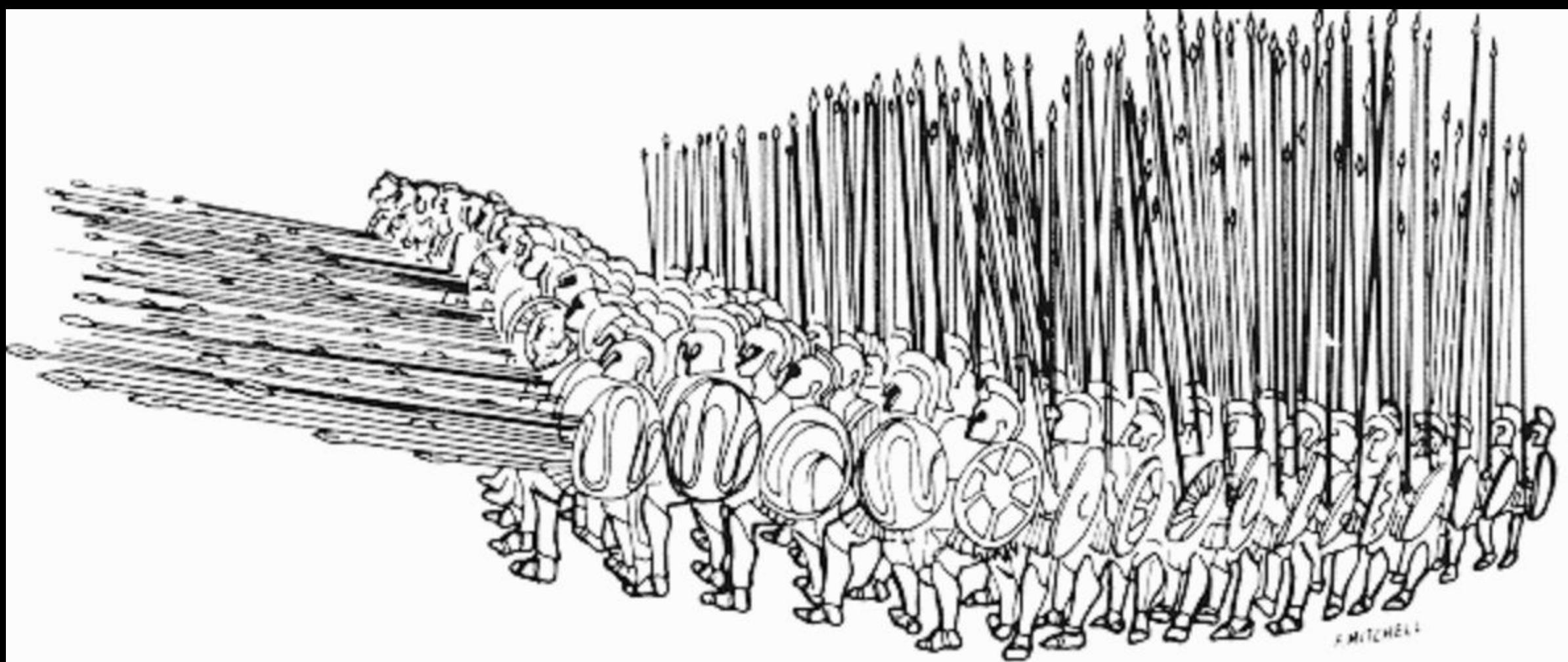


Mamertine Prison

Philippians 1:27-30

27 “Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. 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 28 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. 29 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.”



Advancing the Gospel together through...

1. Character
2. Courage
3. Crisis

Ephesians 4:2-3

“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”

What does it mean to “*conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ?*”

- No matter what situation you find yourself in, whether being favored or persecuted, make sure that your attitude, words, and actions are in alignment with the gospel and with your beliefs.

Advancing the Gospel together through...

1. Character
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3. Crisis

Confronting Fear

“... without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you.” (vs. 28b)

Confronting Fear

“This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God.”

- Philippians 1:28a



Fear of Man vs. Fear of God

“Fear of God’ is an understanding of who God is in relation to us. It means respect, reverence, awe, honor, adoration and worship; it could even be translated as love for God.

It recognizes the power, majesty and holiness of God Almighty. It leads to a healthy respect of God and is the antidote to all other fears and phobias we experience in life. Fear God and you need not

fear anything else or anyone else. It is no coincidence that as the fear of God has decreased in our society, all the other fears have increased. We need to return to a right relationship with God.” - Nicky Gumbel (BiOY, Day 12)

How does belief become conviction?

- The pathway for belief to conviction usually begins when we experience crisis, crossroads, or challenges to what we believe.

Confronting Fear

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but that you will be saved—and that by God.”*

- Philippians 1:28a

Advancing the Gospel together through...

1. Character
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Called to Suffer

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

DNA

The call to suffer is in the DNA of the Christian faith.

Why is suffering so valuable to Christianity?

1. Suffering moves us from belief to conviction (i.e., passion = to suffer)

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1. Suffering moves us from belief to conviction (i.e., passion = to suffer)
2. Suffering strengthens faith
3. Suffering attaches us to Jesus.

Concluding Thoughts

If you're not confident that you'll have the character or courage to hold up under crisis, that's good! Let your lack point you to Jesus.

In your strength, you don't have what it takes, but in God's strength (through His Spirit, His Son, and His people), we are "*more than conquerors.*"

The Blessing

from Galatians 4:9, Romans 8:15, Isaiah 49:16

As you go, remember that you have been loved before the foundation of the world, created in the image of God, and now through Jesus, you know God and are known by God. Your name is engraved on the palm of His hands, and in His name, you are no longer a slave to fear. You are a child of God.