**Finding Grace**

**Partakers of Grace in Joyful Security**

**Philippians 1:7** - *For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you in my heart, since both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers of grace with me.*

3 reasons to rejoice even when your circumstances are uncertain

**I. Be Joyfully Secure in the Effectiveness of Your Testimony – 1:18b-20**

A. Believe the Lord will help you boldly live and speak for Christ when the time comes

**­Philippians 1:19** - …*for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance…*

**Philippians 1:20** - …*according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.*

**Revelation 12:10-11** - *Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.”*

v. 19 – know – oida – “to know with certainty”

**Philippians 1:19** - …*for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ…*

B. Be convinced about the power of prayer and enlist a prayer team as your personalized “partakers of grace”

**James 5:16** - *…The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.*

**2 Corinthians 1:5, 8-11** - *For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ. For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead; who delivered us from so great a peril of death, and will deliver us, He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us, you also joining in helping us through your prayers, so that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed on us through the prayers of many.*

**Romans 15:30** - *Now I urge you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me…*

**Ephesians 6:18-19** - *With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel…*

**1 Thessalonians 5:25** - *Brethren, pray for us.*

**2 Thessalonians 3:1** - *Finally, brethren, pray for us that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified, just as it did also with you…*

**Hebrews 4:16** - *Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

C. Rely on the peace, assurance, and wisdom that comes through the ministry of the Holy Spirit of God.

**Philippians 1:19** - …*for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ…*

**1 John 4:4** - *You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.*

**Zechariah 4:6** - *Then he said to me, “This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel saying, ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the Lord of hosts.”*

**II. Be Joyfully Secure in the Power of Your Identity**

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

A. Define your life through the beauty of the gospel

“The Greek phrase rendered ‘to live is Christ and to die is gain’ contains no verb. It literally reads ‘to live Christ, to die gain.’ Paul knew that living is Christ because he would continue to serve Him while he lived…Paul fully understood that wealth, power, influence, possessions, prestige, social standing, good health, business or professional success and all other such things are transitory. Many acknowledge that truth but not many live as it is true.” (John MacArthur, Philippians, p. 76)

**Genesis 2:7** - *Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.*

**Psalm 139:13-16** - *For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother’s womb. I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wonderful are Your works, and my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth; Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; and in Your book were all written. The days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them.*

**Romans 6:23** - *The wages of sin is death…*

**Romans 5:17** - *For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.*

**Romans 5:21** - …*so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

 **Romans 11:36** - *For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.*

“Here is the complicated reality in which we live. All life is not equal. That’s a difficult thing for liberals like me to talk about, lest we wind up looking like death-panel loving, kill-your-grandma-and-your-precious-baby storm troopers. Yet a fetus can be a human life without having the same rights as the woman in whose body it resides. She’s the boss. Her life and what is right for her circumstances and her health should automatically trump the rights of the non-autonomous entity inside of her. Always.” (Mary Elizabeth Williams, So What if Abortion Ends Life?)

B. Define your death through the beauty of the gospel

**III. Be Joyfully Secure in the Certainty of Your Future**

**Philippians 1:23-24** - *But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better; yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.*