

Joy from Forward Progress Philippians 3:12-16

For the Christ follower, fully knowing Christ is not a destination this side of Heaven; rather, it is necessarily a lifelong pursuit. The joy for now, then, is in the _____ . The joy of actually arriving comes after this life.

Discussion 1. How does reflecting on the spiritual progress you have made encourage you? Think back on the past 9 months: are you able to track any particular spiritual progress during this current pandemic?

I can stay where I am or I can follow Christ, but I cannot do both. Like riding a bicycle, the joy of following Christ is in the _____ : learning from past pains, even using them in ministry, but never defined by them.

Discussion 2. How can we learn from our past pains without letting them define us? What does it mean to use our past pains in our ministry to others but not be defined by them?

There is a world of difference between knowing about Jesus and knowing Jesus. Spiritual maturity and Spiritual revelation are less about knowing things and more about actually _____ .

Discussion 3. If revelation comes to each Christ follower only in God's timing, how can we grow our patience waiting for it to happen in us? How can we grow our patience waiting for it to happen in people we love?

The process of spiritual discernment often begins with what you _____ you _____ you _____ from God. It is driving a spiritual stake in the ground and saying "thus far hath the Lord helped me." It's a helpful discipline.

Discussion 4. What is your current routine for studying scripture (as a means of knowing for sure what God desires)? What "next steps" are you contemplating for adding to your scripture study routine?

Discussion 5. How does this lesson cause you to pray? How does it prepare your heart for worship?

Philippians 3:10-16

¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. ¹⁶ Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

Prayer Requests for my table:
