

A Matter of Perspective

Philippians 1:12-19

A Christ follower's ability to find joy in any painful circumstance or season of life has everything to do with what we believe about God and what we believe about our _____.

Discussion 1. Think about your life 5-10 years ago. What, in that season, did you sense was your mission? How has that sense of mission changed since then?

A correct understanding of Who God is, of what God does, and of what He desires for me is best gained in Spirit-filled community, where my understanding of these matters is _____ and _____ by yours.

Discussion 2. Who in your life has helped shape your understanding of your mission or calling or assignment from God? If that person were not a part of your "community", what would your understanding of mission be?

*My joy as a Christ follower is not fazed by impure motives on the part of other Christian leaders. No matter those motives, I will rejoice when _____
_____. That's a difficult concept for the world to accept.*

Discussion 3. Why is it so difficult for us to let go of our suspicions about other Christians' motives? When entertaining those suspicions, how do you "reset" your perspective and rediscover your joy?

Fully embracing my identity as a slave to Christ means I can find genuine joy even in the midst of injustice and pain and suffering, knowing that, ultimately, He is my _____. Genuine joy is not tied to circumstances.

Discussion 4. How does your identity in Christ help you find joy in the midst of hardships? Are there disciplines in your life that help with that?

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