

Joy from Opposition

Philippians 1:27-30

The New Testament church has always thrived in the face of opposition from the world; not just because it is founded on spiritual truth, but also because it faces spiritual opposition side by side, arm in arm...in _____.

Discussion 1. Think about a difficult or painful circumstance or season in your life. Who walked through it with you? How or why was that important?

Spiritual peace and strength in the face of worldly opposition feed the soul, _____ . Rage and anger in the face of worldly opposition feed the flesh, producing bitterness and enmity.

Discussion 2. In what areas of life are you most likely to be paralyzed or impacted by fear? How do you overcome it? What role, if any, does The Spirit and The Word play in it?

In the light of 200 years of protection from our government and our extraordinary material wealth and more English translations and paraphrases of the Bible than we can even count, American Christians must at least ponder the question: has our _____ become an _____?

Discussion 3. To you, what does it mean that the Western church sometimes makes “comfort” an idol? What are some examples? What about for you personally...are there ways your own comfort has become an idol?

God is a miraculous recycler. There is nothing in your life, no struggle, no pain, no illness, no brokenness which He won't use (now or later) for His glory and for _____.

Discussion 4. Share an example from your own life of your being able to use your own past struggle to help someone else going through a similar struggle? OR, share an example of someone doing that for you?

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