

Joy in Working Out our Salvation Philippians 2:12-18

There is a certain joy in the spiritual collaboration between our “working out our salvation” and God’s “working in us both to will and to work for His good pleasure”. It is a _____ for the Christ follower.

Discussion 1. For you, what is the clearest example of God working in a person “to will and to work for His good pleasure”? What is an example of God working in YOU that way?

Mature Christ followers will stand out in this outrage culture; not because of their brilliant arguments nor their persuasive communication, but because of their _____ and _____ in the midst of this cultural chaos.

Discussion 2. When, in the course of your day-to-day activities, do you have to stop and re-center yourself in peace and serenity? How do you do it? What do you rely on to help?

For the Christ follower, scripture is the immovable rock to which we can cling when the very ground of our culture becomes sinking sand. In a public discourse filled with smoke and mirrors and misunderstanding, scripture alone is _____ and safety.

Discussion 3. Are there particular truths in scripture that you turn to often these days? How do those truths help you better understand or cope with the realities of our current culture?

American Christians should pray that we might one day learn what our brothers and sisters around the world have already learned: to “rejoice in being _____ as a drink offering”. Shouldn’t we?

Discussion 4. Why do you think we (The Gathering) focus every week on persecuted Christians around the world? What impact, if any, does that focus have on your day-to-day mindset throughout the week? Do you believe we are hindered in our spiritual growth unless or until we experience persecution for our faith? Why or why not?

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