Experiencing Jesus. Really: Love and Truth
Philippians 4:4-13
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Philippians 4:4-13: Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! [5] Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. [6] Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. [7] And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.[8] Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. [9] Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.[10] I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. [11] I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. [12] I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. [13] I can do all this through him who gives me strength. (NIV)

Our Vision: Connect with Christ, Church, and Community

1. _____ the battle for the soul

_____ hope: I think you ought to know…about the hard time we went through in Asia. We were really crushed and overwhelmed…we put everything into the hands of God, who alone could save us, for he can even raise the dead. 2 Corinthians 1:8-9 (TLB)

_____ grace: "My grace is enough. This power of grace is made complete through weakness. It is your superpower!" Gladly, I celebrate my weakness because it is an opportunity for the power of Christ to reside in me. 2 Corinthians 12:9 (JOT)

2. _____ the refuge of love and truth

_____ an enchanted imagination: Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your graciousness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Don't worry about anything….
Philippians 4:4-6 (CSB)

_____ strategic: THINK on everything that is true or…holy or…praiseworthy… then PRATICE these with whatever you learned, received, heard, or saw in me! God's peace shall be with you!
Philippians 4:8-9 (JOT)

_____ refuge: I greatly rejoice that you revived your care for me! It helps me to flourish…even though I have learned the great power of contentment…in everything I have strength through Jesus, who empowers me. Philippians 4:10, 11, 13 (JOT)

3. _____ the power of true love

_____ perfect love: There is no room in love for fear. Well-formed love banishes fear. Since fear is crippling, a fearful life—fear of death, fear of judgment—is one not yet fully formed in love.
1 John 4:18 (MSG)

Spiritual Action Step:

Will you accept this shelter of love and truth? Are you tired of being fearful that you are not loved? Do you long to have a love that will not let you down? John the apostle said: God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent His One and Only Son into the world so that we might live through Him. (1 John 4:9 (CSB) Let this love be your shield, fortress, and hope! Admit that God loved you in Jesus Christ. Acknowledge that you need God's help to love God and others. Ask God to put this love in your heart. Jesus came to love you completely and perfectly. Accept this gift of grace into your life, and you will find the joy of God's presence. This week, join us in this study to experience this refuge of love and truth.

Translations: NIV: New International Version; TLB: The Living Bible; JOT: Jon's Own Translation; CSB: The Christian Standard Bible; MSG: The Message