

“A Daily Fight for My Fullest Joy”

(Luke 9:23-24)

March 7, 2010

Every issue in my life *as a follower of Jesus Christ* is first and foremost an issue of trust

(Psalms 56:3-4, 10-11; Proverbs 3:5-6)

A proper and prayed for perception...

The choice for joy is first a perception issue; proper perception is only arrived at through wisdom; wisdom is a God-centered viewpoint (Proverbs 2:6; 8-9; James 1:5)

- Learning to pray for wisdom might be the first and greatest step to an effective prayer life. Wisdom always seeks first and foremost the heart and mind of God in all matters; this heart and mind of God issue is the key to effective prayer (1 John 5:14)

A supernatural yet unnatural choice...

At the very core of a God-centered life - guided by God given wisdom - is the daily, disciplined and supplied choice to choose against the very natural pursuit of self (what I see, want or think I deserve) *and trust God* (Galatians 2:20-21; 6:14)

- The “cross I carry” - or the “death I die daily” - is more often than not *the choice to not take matters into my own hands*
- The “cross I carry” - or the “death I die daily” - is more often than not the choice to not separate my life as a Christ follower from my daily life at work, school or in family but rather seeing God work in and around me through every circumstance and relationship

Absolutely necessary action...

Three critical actions of a Christ follower walking in wisdom and pursuing real joy...

- a. **Trusting/Dying**...trusting that God is not holding out on me but has my greatest joy and satisfaction in mind – even through the crucible of testing and trial
- b. **Pursuing**...(2 Peter 1:5-11)
 - a. Daily excellence
 - b. Knowledge and learning – first and foremost of God (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
 - c. Self-control (Acts 16:22-40)
 - d. Perseverance – staying the course
 - e. Godliness – biblically informed conduct that honors God in every place and at all times
 - f. Sincere friendliness and friendship
 - g. Sacrificial service to others – love
- c. **Waiting**...only in waiting will you get to the end of self and the sufficiency of Christ.
 - a. Most every great opportunity for growth, glory and joy is lost in this place
 - b. Most followers of Jesus bail out in the “school of waiting”

“What God does in us while we wait is as important as what it is we are waiting for...” (Ben Patterson; as quoted by John Ortberg in, *If You Want to Walk on Water You’ve Got to Get Out of the Boat*)

I will never know ultimate joy outside of a lifestyle of worship, measurable and progressive growth, Jesus centered community and service within, and for, the Body of Christ

Remember the “WHY” ...our goal is to pursue and know our greatest joy found in God through Christ alone; if I pursue my greatest joy it will be for God’s greatest glory