

JOY IN THE JOURNEY

LIVING RIGHT IN A WRONG WORLD

**“These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace.
In the world you have tribulation, but take courage;
I have overcome the world.”**

— John 16:33 —

LESSON FIVE

RESUMES NOT ACCEPTED

Finding Joy in Letting Go

DISCUSSION QUESTION

“What are you holding in your fist?”

INTRODUCTION

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matthew 16:24-26)

LESSON

Resumes Not Accepted: Finding Joy in Letting Go

“But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.”
(Philippians 3:7)

1. Joy in the midst of life’s difficulties is only realized when we buy into God’s will completely.
2. Believers are to be known for worship, praise, and humility.
3. Our confidence should rest solely on Christ, not on ourselves.
4. Nothing in this world compares to what God has/will accomplished in us through Christ.
5. Letting go of the things on earth allows us to lay hold of that which makes us more like Christ.

What must God do in your life to convince you to release your grip?

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Philippians 3:1-11

1. Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things again is
 - a. no trouble to me, and
 - b. it is a safeguard for you.
2. Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the false circumcision;
3. for we are the true circumcision, who
 - a. worship in the Spirit of God and
 - b. glory in Christ Jesus and
 - c. put no confidence in the flesh,
4. although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more:
5. /
 - a. circumcised the eighth day,
 - b. of the nation of Israel,
 - c. of the tribe of Benjamin,
 - d. a Hebrew of Hebrews;
 - e. as to the Law, a Pharisee;
6. /
 - a. as to zeal, a persecutor of the church;
 - b. as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.
7. **But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.**
8. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ,
9. and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,
10. /
 - a. that I may know Him and
 - b. the power of His resurrection and
 - c. the fellowship of His sufferings,
 - d. being conformed to His death;
11. in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.