



**House of Faith: Faith to get through suffering
Sermon Discussion Questions – June 11, 2023**

Scripture Passages:

Philippians 1:21- For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Philippians 1:27- Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.

Hebrew 4:14-16- Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we might receive mercy and grace to help us in our time of need.

Philippians 1:3-6- I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18- Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are

achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

2 Corinthians 1:8-11- We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him, we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.

Philippians 1:9-11- And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Philippians 4:11- I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.

Philippians 4:19- And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

Warm Up:

If you could build your perfect house, what would it look like? How many floors? What would the decorations be? Where is it located?

Discussion:

1. What are some moments in your life that have brought you the most joy?
2. This week Tom talked about suffering and circumstances that are less than joyful. What are some moments in your life that have not been joyful, but have felt more like suffering?
3. Has there ever been a time in your life when you felt like God was not showing up when really He was making “eternal moves”? What was the outcome? When was it that you saw what God was doing?

4. In his message, Tom directs attention to 2 Corinthians 11 where it says “Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being saved day by day.”
5. In what areas of your life do you need to focus more on what is being saved inwardly instead of the circumstances outwardly?
6. Read 2 Corinthians 1:8-11. What do you understand about God’s place in suffering through this passage?
7. Tom said in his message, “Our faith is forged in the trials of life.” How have you found that to be true? Where do you need faith that it is true?

Next Steps:

“If you have everything this world has to offer, will you be ultimately and lastingly happy? The answer is no! Why? Because you were not created for Earth! You see, you were created for Heaven! You were created for eternity! This earth is a blip. You're here for a little while, and then you're gone. You were created to glorify the God of the universe. He is not here to serve us. We are here to serve Him.” - Pastor Tom

As you think through this quote from Pastor Tom, take some time to pray through what this means in your life. Think through some of the questions below.

- How does it change your perspective on faith and joy?
- How can you better view the external over the temporary?
- How can you have faith to better depend on God the Sustainer?
- What does it look like to settle into joy among any circumstance?