



Daily Devotionals

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PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11 WORK WITH A PURPOSE

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³ I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ 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.

⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. ⁸ God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

There is a joy in being a part of a community that exists for the good of the world and the proclamation of God's Good News to all humankind. In addition, the despair of meaninglessness is dispelled through the knowledge that we are living according to the purpose for which God created us and which God guarantees will be fruitful. Through belonging to Christ and his Church we can move from the murky mist of being lost to the sunlit path being found and shown the way.

There is also a joy in knowing that there is an endpoint. One of the most cruel and will breaking tools in the armory of psychological abuse is the indefinite sentence. The idea of endless punishment or toil can break the strongest psyche. One just need look back to Greco-Roman mythology and the punishment of Sisyphus who was condemned for eternity to roll a boulder up a hill only to have it roll down again just as he reached the top. To the contrary, we have been given the joyful news that there is a completion point – the day of Christ Jesus. There is a struggle to maintain the right path in a world of broad highways to perdition, but we only have to discipline ourselves to stay on that path until the day when there will be only one path.

The same Jesus who through his Spirit has begun a good work in us will also bring it to its successful completion...if we will let him.

Grow in my heart, Lord Jesus, your affection for the world and the community that is your Church. Empower me to be rooted in your will so that I might produce the kingdom fruit you desire. Thank you for your Holy Spirit through whom you make it possible for a sinner like me to be a saint set apart where I am for your work of revelation. Amen.

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