

Strength for the Journey

“Getting Over Me”

Philippians 3:1-11



Individual Study Introduction

After listening to the audio segment, use the following questions as your time allows. You may want to record your answers or jot down thoughts and notes in a personal journal. You may also want to use your journal as a record of your prayer time with God. Write out your prayer or simply record your requests and the areas of your life you are releasing to God. This written record will help you to watch God’s movement in your life. You’ll see more clearly the ways God is giving you “strength for the journey”!

Getting Started:

Joe Stowell states that our search for significance ends at the cross, where we become children of God. Unfortunately, however, Joe observes that when we get to the other side of the cross, we start reaching back for all our blue ribbons.

- What ribbons, trophies, or other awards—bragging rights—can you recall receiving in your lifetime?
- How can you relate to Joe’s assertion that when we get to other side of the cross, we start reaching back for all our blue ribbons—taking on the attitude “Now I’ve got Jesus, and I’ve still got me”?

Strength through Scripture:

Read Philippians 3:1-11.

1. In this passage, Paul mentions three things that make Jesus so valuable. The first is the opportunity to gain Christ. When you came to the cross to gain Christ as your Savior and Friend, what did you bring that merited that relationship?
2. The second thing that makes Jesus so valuable is the opportunity to be found in Him. What are the benefits of being “hidden in Christ” and “wrapped in His righteousness”?

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- Lesson 1
- Lesson 2
- Lesson 3

Notes:

“Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you.”

Philippians 3:1

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3. The third thing that makes Jesus so valuable is the fact that we gain Christ and are found in Him in order that we might attain to the resurrection from the dead. God wants to give us the security of knowing that some day this world will be gone and we will pass across to the other side—that place where there is no more sorrow, tears, or death, but rather full satisfaction of our souls and joy inexpressible forever in the presence of Jesus? How does knowing that make you feel?

4. Joe states that the real heart of what Paul is saying in this passage is in verse 10. How big of a gap is there between your knowledge about Jesus (historically, theologically, and biographically) and knowing Him—experiencing Him—in your life?

5. Paul writes that one place we meet Jesus is in the power of His resurrection. In what way will we experience that power in a future, physical sense? In what way can we experience that power right now?

Digging Deeper:

If you have enough time, answer one or more of these optional questions. But be sure to save time for the final two sections.

1. To what extent do you resonate with Joe’s assessment that Jesus is a name we know, a Savior who has rescued us from hell, and someone we will be with in heaven, but He doesn’t really seem to have much value to us here in life?

2. What does Joe mean when he says that we shouldn’t dump our list of gain (our resources, abilities, etc.), but rather mentally change our value system?

3. In what sense is it intriguing that Paul still had such an intense longing to know Christ—even though he had experienced Jesus more frontally and personally than anyone else?

Strength through Reflection:

1. Do you agree with Joe that every genuine born-again believer has a longing for intimacy with Jesus Christ?

2. How strongly do you sense that longing yourself?

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Notes:

Strength through Prayer:

Spend a few moments in prayer. Thank God that your search for significance ended when you became a child of God.

You may want to begin your prayer with these words:

“Thank You, Father, for making it possible for me to gain Christ and be found in Him in order that I might attain to the resurrection from the dead. Forgive me for rejoicing in myself and devaluing Jesus in my life. I don’t merely want to know about Jesus; I want to truly experience Him. I desire to meet Jesus through the power of His resurrection as I allow Him to accomplish victory over sin in my life.”

Closing Call to Action:

Contending with temptation boils down to what you value most in life. That temptation—that adrenaline rush, that immediate hit, that thrill, that expression of bitterness instead of the forgiveness that God has for you, that moving into some sensual moment—are you really saying that it is more valuable to you than Jesus?

Victory over temptation means looking in Christ’s eyes and saying, “Lord, I love You. You are more valuable to me than this moment of sin.” And then it means lifting your hand and letting Him deliver you from evil.

Today, look for that one temptation where you meet Jesus and know the joy of His available intimacy.

Dotted lines for taking notes.