

WHEN YOUR LIFE IS ON THE LINE

PHILIPPIANS 1:12-14

Leaders: Please lead a brief discussion on these key points to remember in Philippians:

- (1) God's Grace—Thrive in it!
- (2) Joy—Choose it.
- (3) The Day—Look for it.
- (4) Love—Grow in it.

YOU CAN TAKE OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE THE GOSPEL. As you live your Christ life on earth, you have joy; and you know when you get to be with Jesus forever, it will be even more joyous than you could have imagined! Because you want everyone to know Jesus and His joy, you desire to share Him at every opportunity He gives. You know that you have nothing to lose and everything to gain. In the words of martyred missionary, Jim Elliot, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose." (**Philippians 1:12, fn 1:12, Philippians 1:20-26, fn 1:20-21, Daniel 12:3, fn 12:3, Romans 10:13-15, fn 10:15**). *To share your faith, you could ask the question "Have you come to a place that you know for certain you have eternal life, or is that something you are working on?" Using John 1:12, what could you say to lead someone to trust Christ?*

YOU REVEAL WHAT YOU BELIEVE. Going through tough circumstances, you can depend upon God's grace (His help to the undeserving). You can have a confident attitude of joy because of the Holy Spirit's constant companionship, always looking for Christ's return and abounding in His love. Such is the believer who seeks a deeper intimacy with Jesus. (**Philippians 1:13, fn 1:12-14, Philippians 1:29, fn 1:29, Philippians 4:10-13, fn 4:12-13, fn 4:13, Philippians 1:7-11, fn 1:7, fn 1:9**) *How have tough circumstances helped to strengthen you to share your faith?*

YOU COURAGEOUSLY SHARE THE MESSAGE OF CHRIST and it gives others increased boldness to share their faith. When the believers saw Paul's boldness to share the gospel while he was in chains, they were encouraged to share how they came to know Christ and how He had changed their lives. "Paul's example and the Lord's presence took away their fears and gave them amazing courage. Courage is contagious. The timid catch boldness from the brave." G. Walter Hansen, The Letter to the Philippians, p. 70. (**Philippians 1:14, fn 1:14, Philippians 1:16-19, fn 1:16-19, Proverbs 11:30, fn 11:30, II Timothy 4:1-5, fn 4:5**) *What could you share about becoming a Christian and how the Lord has changed your life?*

Are you taking time to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit with the Living Word teaching you and giving you His joy, His love, and His peace?