

No Greater Reward!

There is a direct correlation between the grace of God being extended to us and our rejoicing! Both GRACE and REJOICE come from the same root word. When you are in the grace of God, you will find yourself rejoicing. The two are interconnected. Every time you rejoice in the midst of persecution the grace of God will be supplied to you! This "supply" comes to you through Jesus Christ so that you may overcome even in difficult circumstances. Look what Paul declared in 1 Thessalonians 2:2,

"But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict."

Paul constantly faced opposition but this did not stop him nor prevent him from doing what God asked him to do! Notice he said "in much conflict." Brothers and Sisters, the conflict doesn't go away just because you are in the will of God! The conflict is there because you are **in** the will of God! You are doing something right! So rejoice!

"For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?" 1 Thessalonians 2:19.

There is no greater reward, there is no greater joy than knowing of a certainty that your labors in Christ have produced a harvest of souls! God is a God of increase; He is the God of "More-Than-Enough!" And He will supply everything that you need to accomplish His will through you! Don't wait for the conflict to be over before you begin. Why not just be the best servant you can be in the midst of the conflict? Why not just go ahead and start serving anyway? God will enable you and strengthen you in every conflict to win! Let His Kingdom come and let His will be done in us as it is in heaven. And there is much joy in heaven today!

In the Body of Christ we are members one of another. As we join our hearts and lives together to serve, we are serving our Lord and Savior. Whether you pray for someone at the altar, sweep the sidewalk, clean the gutters, teach in a class, visit the sick, mix down video, prepare communion, all of these things are extensions of His Ministry! We do not have the right to say one is more important than the other. They all work together for good to put a face upon Jesus that the world can see! Let this Body remember what Christ has done for us, receive His grace and continue together, rejoicing in the midst of every conflict! There is no greater reward than this.

On this very special day, we remember those who stood in conflict and sacrificed their lives for us. We especially remember our founders who, in the midst of great conflict boldly declared the Word of God, establishing a Christian Republic, the first of its kind. And though we live in

a day of political correctness and a rewriting of our history, the truth still stands on its own. We still live in a Christian nation, not because of our own righteousness, but because of the *root* that still exists in this land. This is not only a time to be bold but also to rejoice! For God's grace is at work in our midst. We remember, but we also rejoice.

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