

Living for the Cause

Three simple keys to accelerate our growth in Christ

1. A deliberate choice to participate in the work of God
2. Make it your purpose in life to bless/serve others
3. Partner with other believers of the same heart and mind

Philippians 1:27-30

Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; 28 in no way alarmed by your opponents—which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that too, from God.

29 For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, 30 experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear to be in me.

★ The key phrase:

“Striving together for the faith of the Gospel”

“Fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News” (NLT)

“Striving side by side [as if in combat] for the faith of the gospel” (Amplified Bible)

For this Cause...

*Hope has found its home within me
Now that I've been found in You
Let all that I am be all You want me to be
'Cause all I want is more of You
Let Your presence fall upon us
I want to see You face to face
Let me live forever lost in Your love
'Cause all I want is more of You
All I want is more of You
I'm living for this cause
I lay down my life
Into Your hands
I'm living for the truth
The hope of the world
In You I'll stand
'Cause all I want is You
All I want is
All I want is You
Jesus*

Songwriter: Joel Houston

For This Cause lyrics © Capitol Christian Music Group

★ We are living for the cause, the greatest cause mankind has ever known

1. To know Christ and to make Him Known

This transcends all else, the proclamation of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God is the priority which should dictate our behaviour, choices and practice throughout our lives.

Matthew 4:18-22

Now as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. 19 And He *said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. 21 Going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He called them. 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

19 And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

◆ Jesus then gives His new followers a practical lesson in church 101

Matthew 4:23

Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.

◆ What happened when Jesus went to 'church' ?

- Preached the Word
- Healed the sick

Mark 1:39

And He went into their synagogues throughout all Galilee, preaching and casting out the demons.

Luke 6:17-19

Jesus came down with them and stood on a level place; and there was a large crowd of His disciples, and a great throng of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon, 18 who had come to hear Him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were being cured. 19 And all the people were trying to touch Him, for power was coming from Him and healing them all.

2. A life worthy of the Gospel

Paul highlights five things that reveal we are indeed living worthy of the Gospel

Philippians 1:27

Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are....

1. **Standing firm**

- We are not wavering in our belief
- It does not change with the times
- We must stand together on the truth
- Hold on to the absolutes of the Word of God
- If the church cannot make a united stand, how will the world take us seriously?

2. **One spirit**

- It is in the spirit that our unity begins
- Our unity originates from the new birth
- Born from above
- We are all born into the one Spirit

3. **One mind**

- The Greek is better translated soul or heart
- This is more than just a simple acknowledgement
- It is a whole of life commitment
- For each others benefit

4. **Striving together**

- One could say, "competing together"
- We are not contending with one another
- We are contending for the truth
- Keep participating fully in the race course

5. **For the faith of the Gospel**

- This is the cause
- The common thing that binds us together
- Unity is important
- The more important is the work that we stand united to do

3. Clash of the cultures

Paul then goes on and speaks to us about the conflict that will arise as a result of standing firm and defending the faith.

Philippians 1:28-30

In no way alarmed by your opponents—which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that too, from God.

29 For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, 30 experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear to be in me.

The Good News of the Kingdom of God, by reason of its very nature and its claims, will create a conflict with the cultures of this world and the realms of darkness.

John 10:10 (Passion Translation NT)

A thief has only one thing in mind—he wants to steal, slaughter, and destroy. But I have come to give you everything in abundance, more than you expect —life in its fullness until you overflow!

Romans 14:17

For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

The Gospel that brings the new life and the moral absolutes (values) of God's Kingdom will create conflict.

1. No way alarmed by opponents

- We need to know that we have an opponent
- Also know that we are not intimidated by him
- Need to be aware of the enemies schemes
- More than conquerors

2. Sign of Salvation

- We are given the victory from God
- We must assume there is a battle to be fought
- The enemy is defeated
- We live and pray from a place of victory

3. Hardship

- Paul speaks of hardship
- A realistic fact that preaching Christ will not please everyone
- Hardships will come

★ *It sometimes seems to be that in our modern day (at least in the developed world) that we have tried to eliminate suffering and hardship from the Gospel message. It appears that we mistakingly equated 'victory' with 'no suffering'.*

As much as we do not seek it, or try to create it by inappropriate behaviour, nevertheless hardship will find its way to our door if we are boldly proclaiming Christ and His Gospel of the Kingdom of God.

1 Peter 4:14-16

If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. 15 Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; 16 but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.

★ The proclamation of the Gospel will conflict with the world's culture.

- If it doesn't then one might ask, "Is it the Gospel of the Kingdom of God?"

Jude 1:3 (Passion Translation NT)

Dearly loved friend, I was fully intending to write to you about our amazing salvation we all participate in, but felt the need instead to challenge you to vigorously defend and contend for the beliefs that we cherish. For God, through the apostles, has once for all entrusted these truths to his holy believers.

Jude 1:20-21

But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.

(Passion Translation NT)

"By constantly and progressively building each other up on the foundation of your most holy faith, and by praying every moment in the Spirit's power, you will keep yourselves in the love of God, awaiting the mercy of our Lord Jesus, who gives eternal life."

4. For the cause of Christ

Philippians 2:1-2

Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, 2 make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

Standing firm and working together in unity is essential for the spreading of the Gospel and the prerequisite for us making an effectual impact on people and nations.

Intent on one purpose

(TPT) Walk together with one harmonious purpose and you will fill my heart with unbounded joy.

Amen form me!

We do not all have the same job or role to play, but we all do need to share in the one purpose.

★ To know Christ and to make Him known.

Romans 12:6 (Passion Translation NT)

God's marvelous grace imparts to each one of us varying gifts and ministries that are uniquely ours....

1 Corinthians 12:6 (Amplified Bible)

And there are distinctive varieties of operation [of working to accomplish things], but it is the same God Who inspires and energizes them all in all.

Stand firm!

1 Corinthians 16:13 (Passion Translation NT)

Remember to stay alert and hold firmly to all that you believe. Be mighty and full of courage.