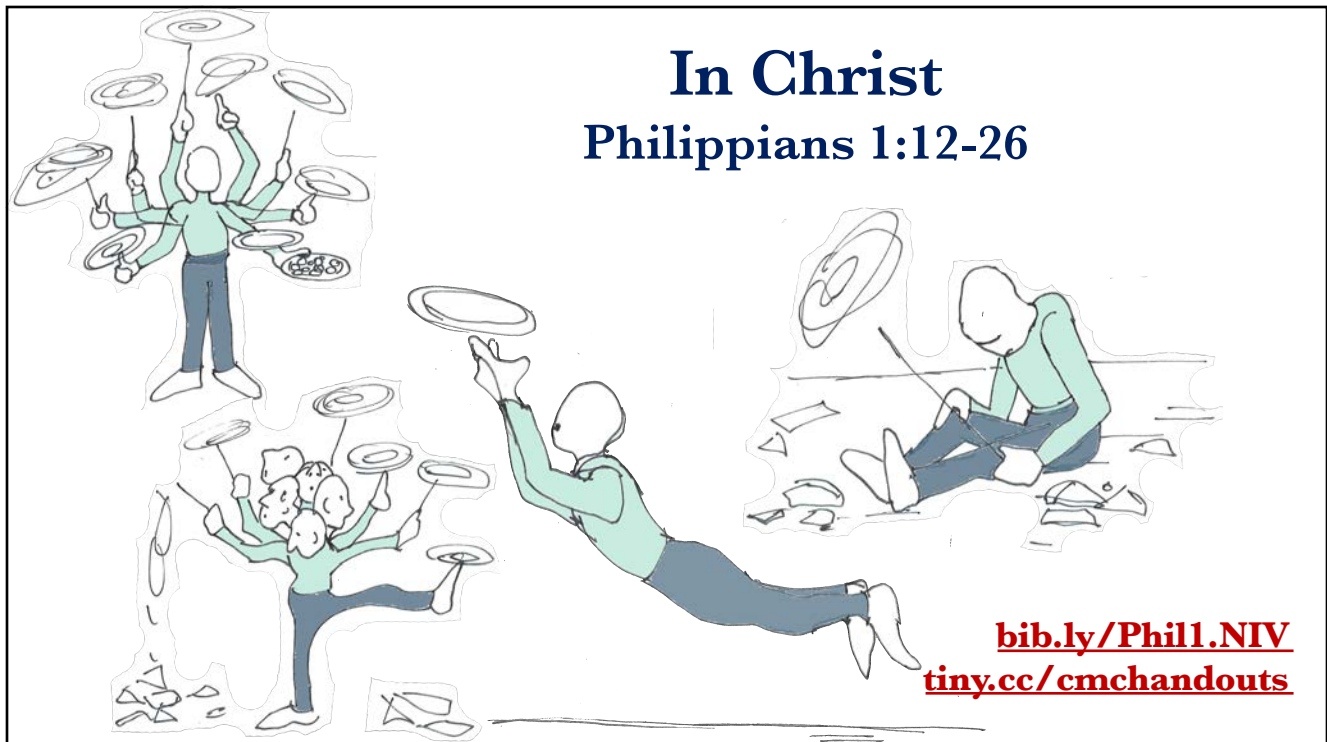


What steals our joy?

- What steals our joy? What steals your joy?
- “Rejoice in the Lord **always**. I will say it again: Rejoice!”
Philippians 4:4
 - Of course this **sometimes** makes sense
 - But now?
 - Why?
 - How?

1



2



3

Foundation: Jesus Christ is God the Son who

“Grace and peace to you from God our Father
and **the Lord Jesus Christ**” 1:2

**suffered to
death for us**

“Christ Jesus...**being in very nature God**” 2:5-6

“At the name of Jesus **every knee [will] bow**, in heaven and on
earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that
Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” 2:10-11

Yet, Jesus “did not consider **equality with God** something to be
used to his own advantage; rather, **he made himself nothing** by
taking the very nature of a **servant**, being made in **human likeness**.
And being found in appearance as a man, **he humbled himself by
becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!**” 2:6-8

4

A brief history of Saul (Paul)

A life of great blessing

- Born into a faithful Hebrew household
- A Roman citizen by birth
- Trained by Gamaliel, the premiere Pharisee of the day
- He was “advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own people, so extremely zealous was I”
- Authorized with troops from Jewish leadership to arrest Christians

5

A brief history of Saul (Paul)

A life of great blessing

When he became a Christian, that changed!

- Repeatedly attacked and beaten and left for dead
- Arrested in Jerusalem on false charges
- Held unjustly for 2 years
- Transferred to Rome as a prisoner, including a shipwreck
- Held 2 years under house arrest in Rome
 - Able to stay in his own house that he rented
- Perhaps moved to a stricter setting (“I am in chains...”)

6

A brief history of Saul (Paul)

A life of great blessing

When he became a Christian, that changed!

Likely then wrote this letter to the Philippian church

- Paul started the church
- Had a long good relationship with them
- They supported Paul's ministry with money and care and people
 - Even when in prison (put them at risk)
 - And who wants a suffering leader??
- They were concerned about Paul in his years-long imprisonment
 - And perhaps especially with him being “in chains”

7

Philippians 1:12-14

Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

8

Philippians 1:15-18a

It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

9

Philippians 1:18b-20

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

10

Philippians 1:21-26

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

11

Philippians 1:12-14

Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to **advance the gospel**. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am **in chains for Christ**. And because of **my chains**, most of the brothers and sisters have become **confident in the Lord** and **dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear**.

12

Philippians 1:12-26

12-14: The Gospel is flourishing while Paul is in chains

- Paul rejoiced in the “advance the Gospel”
 - Like: “Your Kingdom come, your will be done...”
 - More people know the Good News
 - More people see and experience it in action

1) All the palace guard and beyond know of Christ
They heard and saw the life-altering reality of the Gospel in action

15-18a: 2) Christians proclaim the Gospel more
18b-20: Confident, “dare all the more”, without fear
21-26:

13

Philippians 1:15-18a

It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the **defense of the gospel.** The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. But what does it matter? The important thing is that **in every way,** whether from false motives or true, **Christ is preached.** And because of this I **rejoice.**

14

Philippians 1:12-26

12-14: The Gospel is flourishing while Paul is in chains

15-18a: **The Gospel is flourishing even when some mean harm**

- The challenges were real!
 - Unjust (& certainly harsh) imprisonment continues
 - **Christians** were intentionally doing harm to Paul!
 - “Self-serving Christianity” = hypocrisy!
 - Paul believed in the power of the Gospel that was greater even than the voices who proclaimed it
- Paul’s overriding concern:

“in every way, Christ is preached”

18b-20:

- And this brought joy!

21-26:

15

Philippians 1:18b-20

Yes, and **I will continue to rejoice**, for I know that through your prayers and God’s provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my **deliverance**. **I eagerly expect and hope** that **I will in no way be ashamed**, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

16

Philippians 1:12-26

12-14: The Gospel is flourishing while Paul is in chains

15-18a: The Gospel is flourishing even when some mean harm

18b-20: Paul rejoices in Christ, expecting sufficient courage

- Repeated emphasis: Joy!
 - Key concern: “have sufficient courage” to keep focusing on Christ in joy & not ashamed to testify
 - It took real courage!
 - Through...
 - Their prayer
 - God’s provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ
- 21-26: • Who was faithful through trial, suffering & death

17

Philippians 1:21-26

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am **torn between** the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

18

Philippians 1:12-26

12-14: The Gospel is flourishing while Paul is in chains

15-18a: The Gospel is flourishing even when some mean harm

18b-20: Paul rejoices in Christ, expecting sufficient courage

21-26: ...whether in life or death

- To live is Christ
 - Fruitful ministry to benefit those he loves
 - Joy and strength from the Spirit
 - Christ is his reason for being (and doing...)
- To die is gain
 - Be directly with Christ
 - End of troubles

19

The Big Idea

**To live joyfully and fully today
is only found in Jesus Christ
and even more so when trouble and death come**

“To live is Christ and to die is gain.”

20

Application

Live life “in Jesus Christ”

- Paul’s emphasis in Philippians: “in Christ”

21

“In Christ” and “In the Lord”

God’s holy people <u>in Christ</u>	identity	1:1
...I am in chains <u>for Christ</u>	even in suffering	1:13
Your boasting <u>in Christ</u> will abound	bold confidence	1:26
...become confident <u>in the Lord</u> ...	confidence	1:14
encouragement ... <u>in Christ</u>	courage	2:1
have the same mindset <u>as Christ Jesus</u>	humility	2:5
I hope <u>in the Lord Jesus</u> to send...	hope	2:19
I am confident <u>in the Lord</u> ...	confidence	2:24
Welcome him <u>in the Lord</u> ...	generosity	2:29

22

“In Christ” and “In the Lord”

Rejoice <u>in the Lord</u> ...	joy	3:1
...who boast <u>in Christ Jesus</u>	confidence	3:3
...called me heavenward <u>in Christ Jesus</u>	future	3:14
Stand firm <u>in the Lord</u> ...	endurance	4:1
Be of the same mind <u>in the Lord</u>	unity	4:2
Rejoice <u>in the Lord</u> always	joy	4:4
...will guard you hearts and minds <u>in Christ Jesus</u>	peace	4:7
I rejoiced greatly <u>in the Lord</u>	joy	4:10
...riches of his glory <u>in Christ Jesus</u>	abundance	4:19
Greet all God’s people <u>in Christ Jesus</u>	fellowship	4:21

23

Application

Live life “in Jesus Christ”

- Because: Jesus Christ is God, He is life, He is the beginning and end, He is our peace
- Christ is our reason for being
 - For us as individuals
 - For our church
- This week brought many painful emotions for each of us
 - Anger / Sadness / Fear / Judgment / and more...
 - In our diverse church, we have a WIDE range of responses
 - We must continue caring for each other in our pain
 - Christ is our reason for being, not our politics!
- Other things have value, yet only in their place in Christ

24

Spinning Plates

**Splitting our attention over many things
that keep needing our attention
without making a mess of any of them**

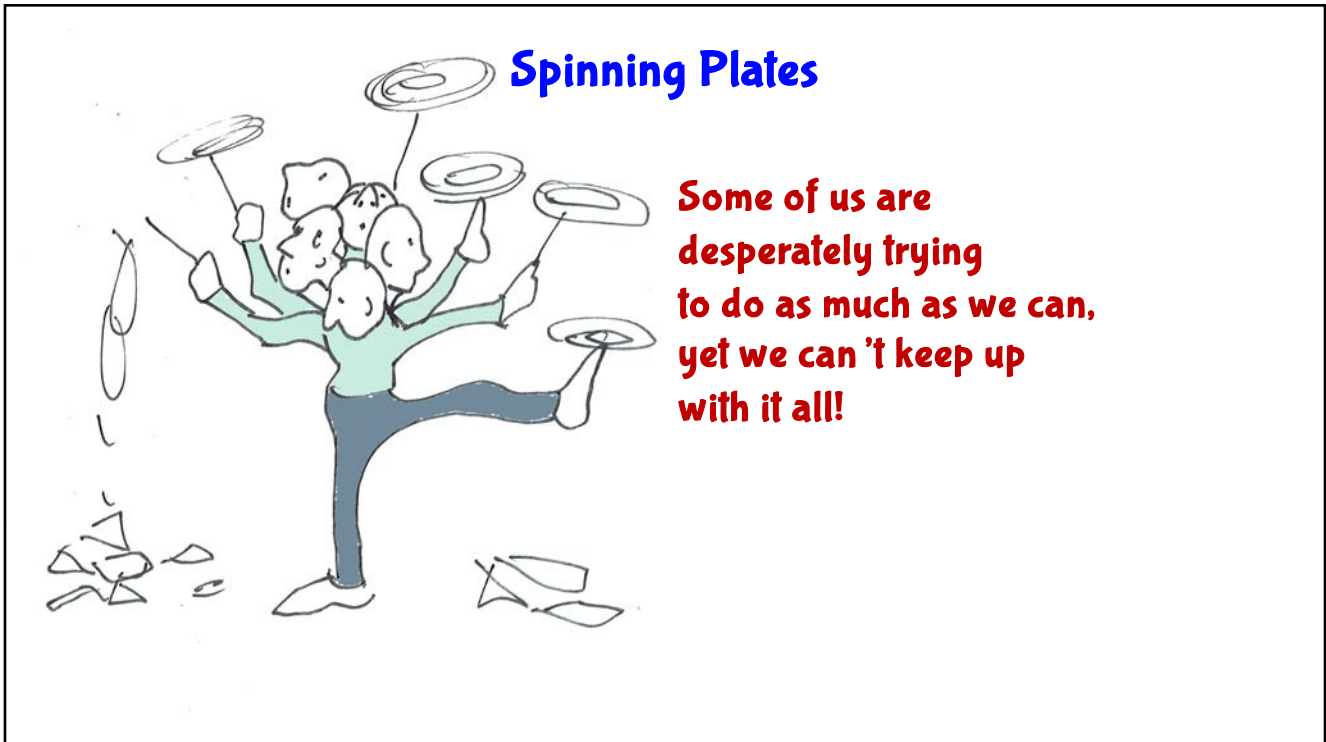
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Spinning Plates

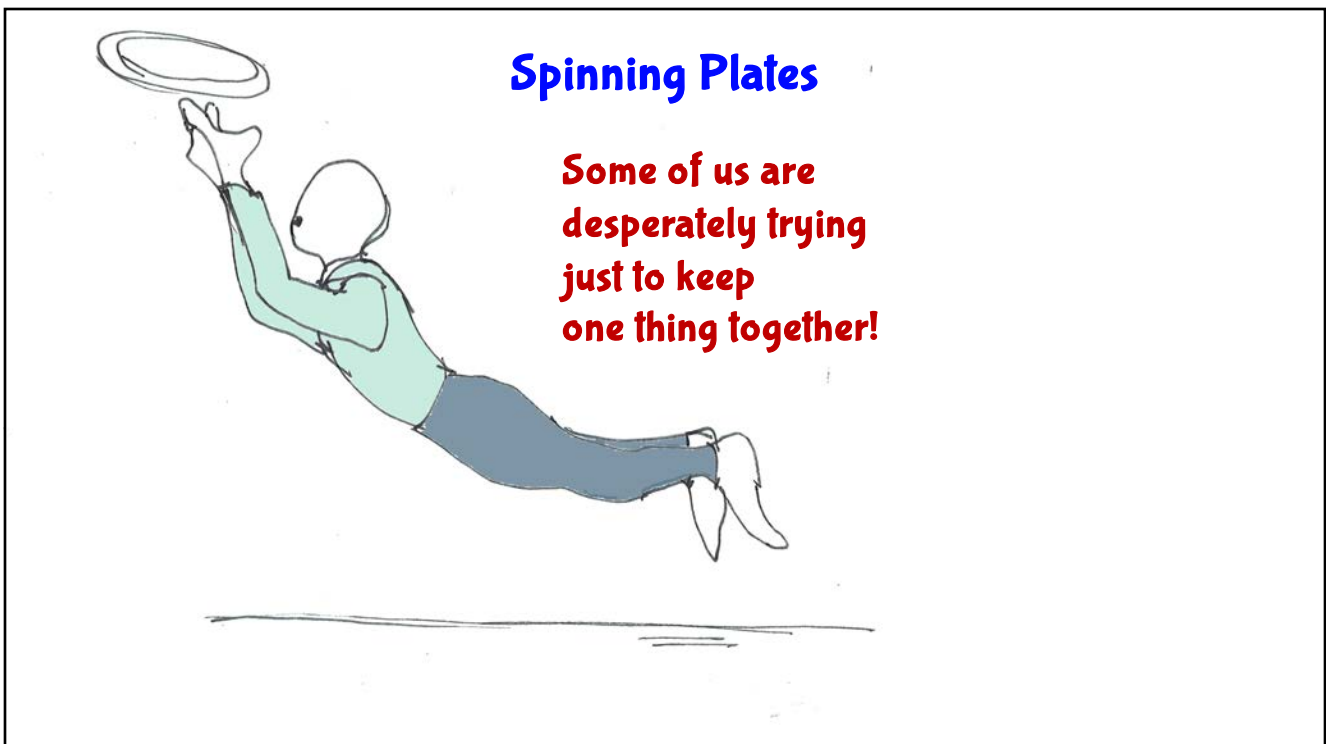


**Some people seem
incredibly skilled
at doing so many things!**

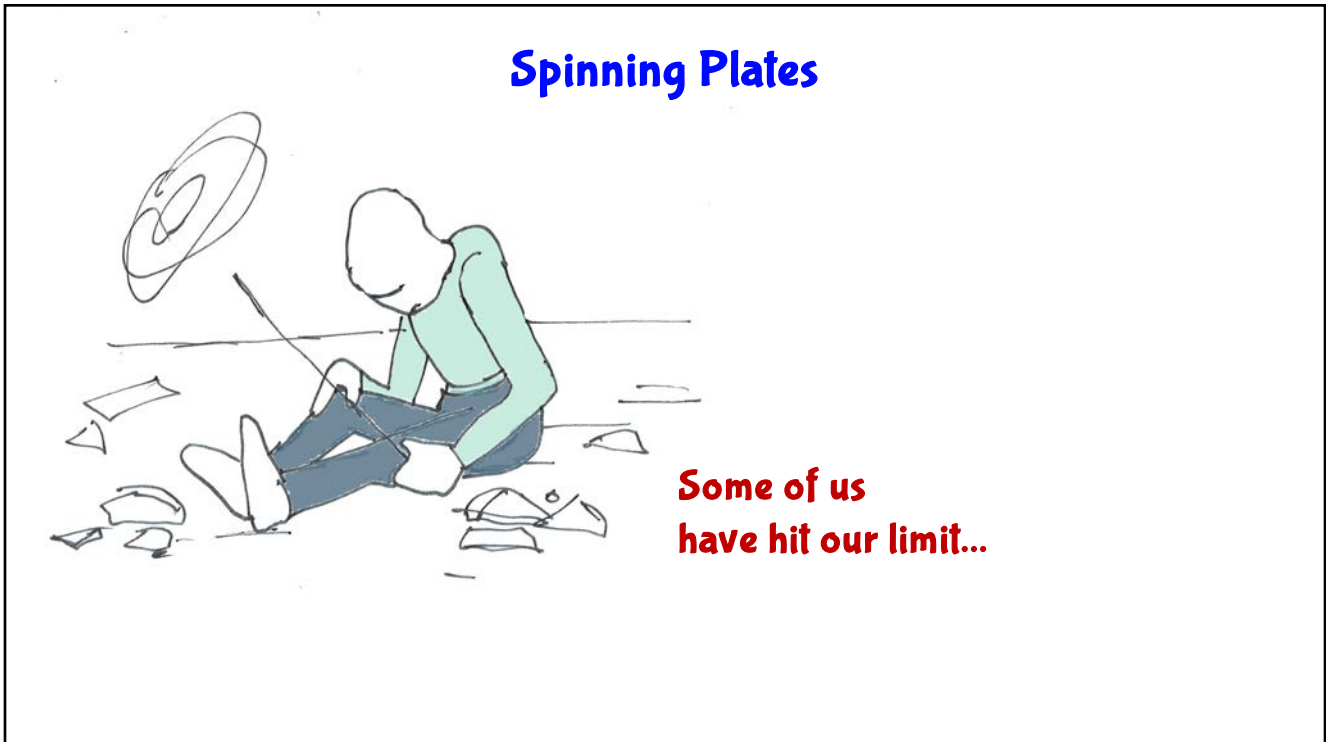
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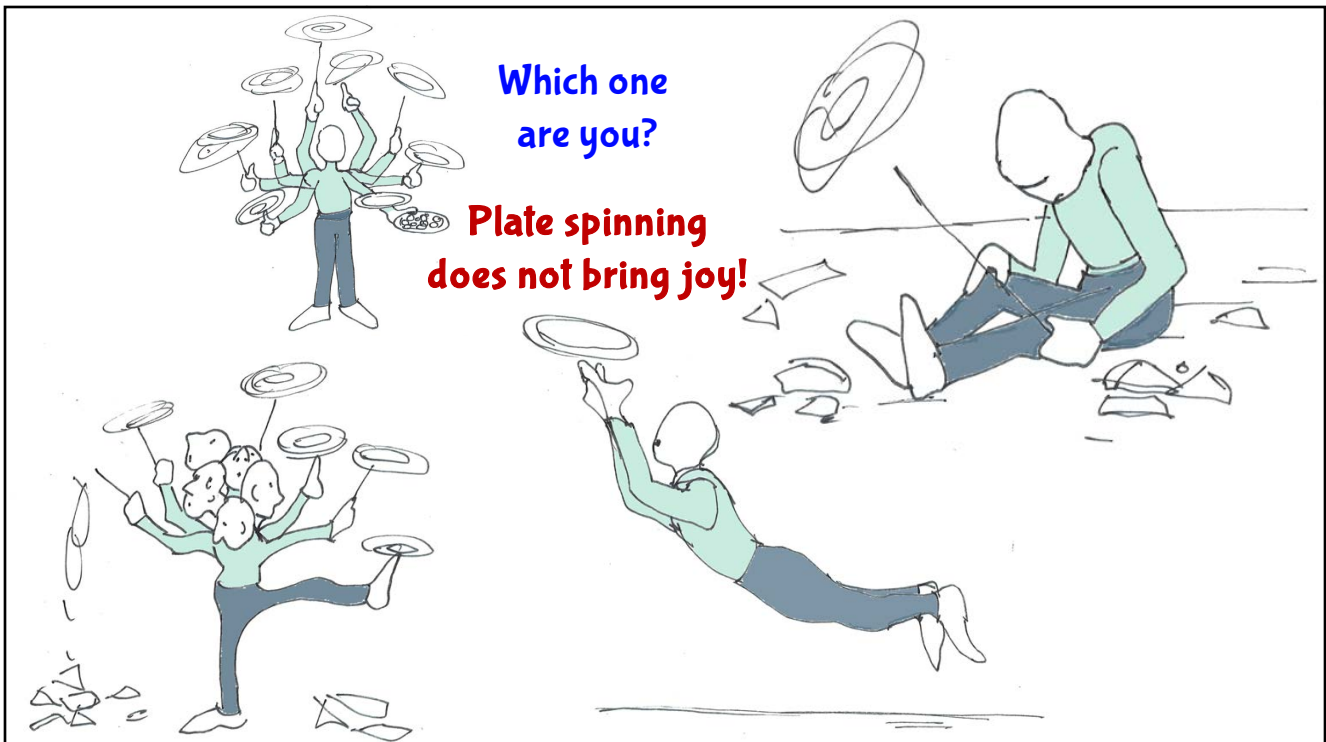
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28



29



30

Application

Live life “in Jesus Christ”

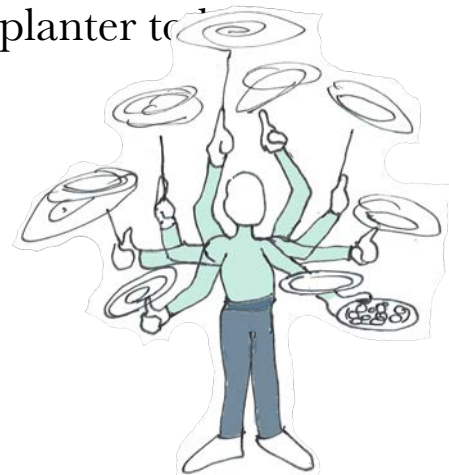
- If you have Jesus Christ, you have everything in **His** hands!
 - He is the head who oversees everything else
 - He is before everything else
 - My “tribe”: ethnicity, political party, social grouping, family, ...
 - Justice: personal or societal
 - Country
 - My rights and freedoms
 - He brings peace to everything else
 - My identity, my pains, my regrets, my griefs
 - Living in conflicting worldviews and perspectives

31

Application

Live life “in Jesus Christ”

- While I am not threatened with prison, there are days when I have little eager expectation...
 - This is what I imagine a good church planter to

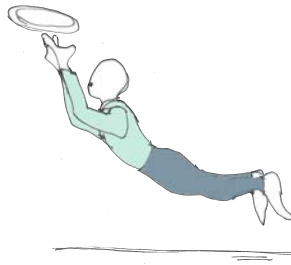


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Application

Live life “in Jesus Christ”

- While I am not threatened with prison, there are days when I have little eager expectation...
 - These drawings show how I am living each day



- Why keep trying? Why hope for what can't come?
- **Through your prayers and the Spirit of Jesus, I am hopeful that I will have sufficient courage...**

33

Application

Live life “in Jesus Christ”

- “To live is Christ”
 - He loves us by His grace
 - He is with us by His Spirit
 - He grants fruitful ministry for His Kingdom
- “To die is gain”
 - Even when I give up what I deeply value, or I have it taken from me
 - Jesus’ gain in death: purchased salvation, followed by glory
 - Our gain in struggling for the Gospel: that somehow Christ would be known, followed by glory!
 - The fulfillment of my deepest longings, forever growing

34

*Application***Live life “in Jesus Christ”****Rejoice in the advance of the Gospel**

- More people know the glory of our Savior!
 - So many live without the joy that is ours “in Christ”
 - A few imagine they can make it all work, yet a week like this week must certainly show how fragile that is

35

*Application***Live life “by, in, and for Jesus Christ”****Rejoice in the advance of the Gospel**

- More people know the glory of our Savior!
- More people see and experience the Gospel in action
 - We see more clearly the brokenness of people and the impossibility of resolving our conflicts!
 - Oh, that people would see Jesus!
 - Not that they would see us, with our stumbling
 - But that they would see Jesus in us!
 - Oh, that we would have the aroma of Christ!
 - **This is joy beyond words!!**

36

Application

Live life “by, in, and for Jesus Christ”

Rejoice in the advance of the Gospel

- **“The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. → Made public and celebrated And because of this I rejoice.”** *Philippians 1:18*

37

Philippians 1:27-30

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, **striving together as one for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you.** This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

38

GROWING +
in Christ
together
through all of us

Our vision for our church in 2021

39

GROWING +
in Christ
together
through all of us

**To live joyfully and fully today
is only found in Jesus Christ
and even more so when trouble and death come**

40



**Jesus Christ is our reason for existence
Apart from Him we have nothing
With Him we have everything**

41



**Why do we keep loving across differences?
Because this is what Jesus called us to
Because this is what Jesus did**

42



**From a human perspective, this is possible
Yet in Christ, we can do nothing less**

43

The Big Idea

**To live joyfully and fully today
is only found in Jesus Christ
and even more so when trouble and death come**

**“For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.”
Loving across differences takes great courage!
Please pray for me and for us
And let us walk in the Spirit of Jesus together**

44