

## Pursuits

What do people pursue, even sacrificing time,  
money, effort, comfort, ...?

Why do we pursue these things?

What should we pursue?

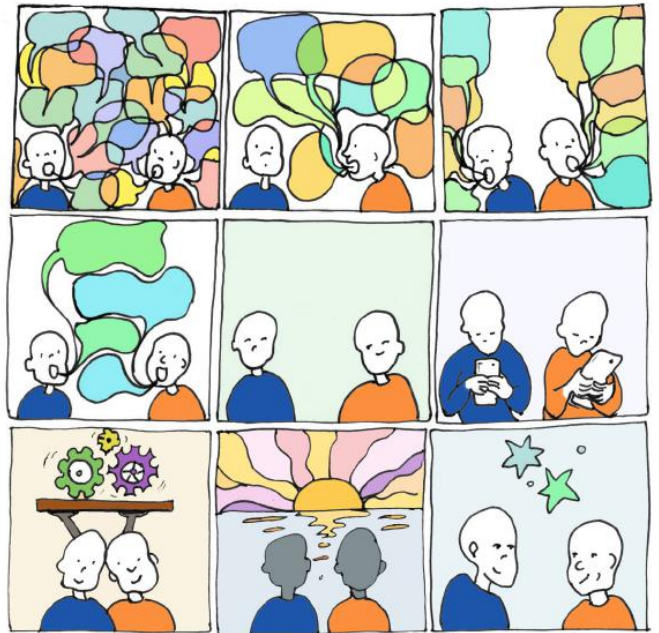


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## Above All Else

**Philippians 3:1-14**

[ref.ly/Pp1;niv](https://ref.ly/Pp1;niv)



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## Philippians

Letter from Paul while he was in prison  
for living as a Christian

To a 10-year-old church he helped start

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## Philippians

Paul said: "Convinced [that I am called to serve you], 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." Philippians 1:25-26

**Paul's goal: your progress and joy in the faith  
and your joy and confidence in Christ will abound**

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## Philippians 3:1-14

Further, my brothers and sisters, 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. <sup>2</sup> Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh. <sup>3</sup> For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh— <sup>4</sup> though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

**Our greatest treasure and confidence is in Christ Jesus**

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If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more:

<sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day,  
of the people of Israel,  
of the tribe of Benjamin, **Paul's Jewish and religious heritage**  
a Hebrew of Hebrews;  
in regard to the law, a Pharisee;  
<sup>6</sup> as for zeal, persecuting the church;  
as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

**Paul had good reasons to have hope in himself, but...**

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<sup>7</sup> But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.

Hope in one thing only: knowing Christ Jesus

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<sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

Hope in one thing only: knowing Christ Jesus

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<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. <sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Goal: knowing Christ, and being known by Christ

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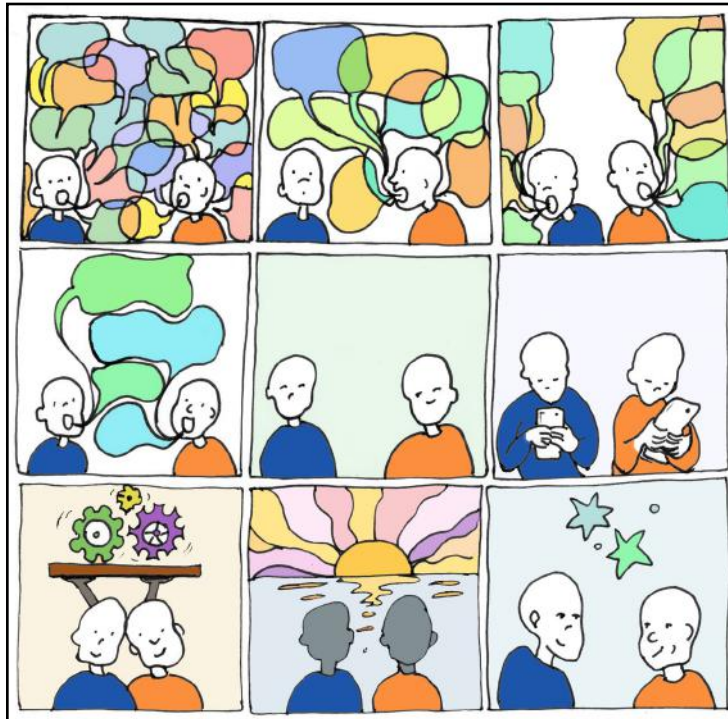
## The Big Idea

True joy and confidence only come through a growing relationship with Jesus Christ

Many in Philippi valued religious activities

Many today pursue...

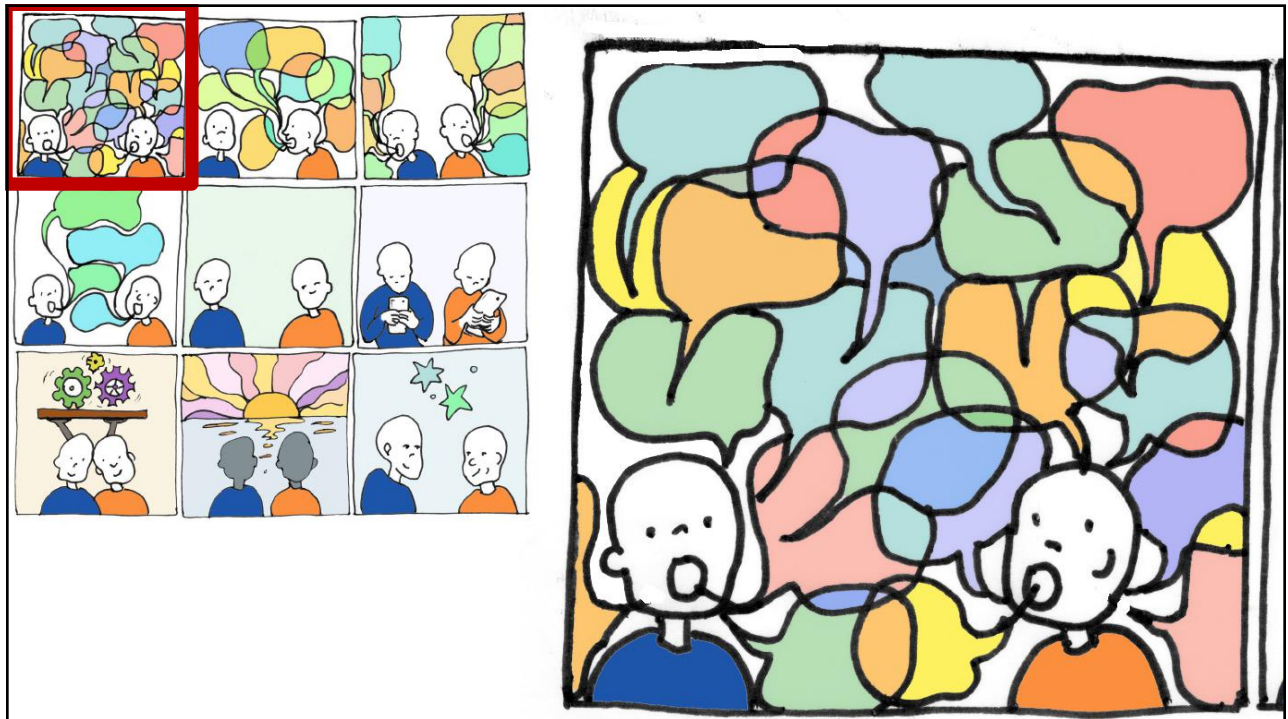
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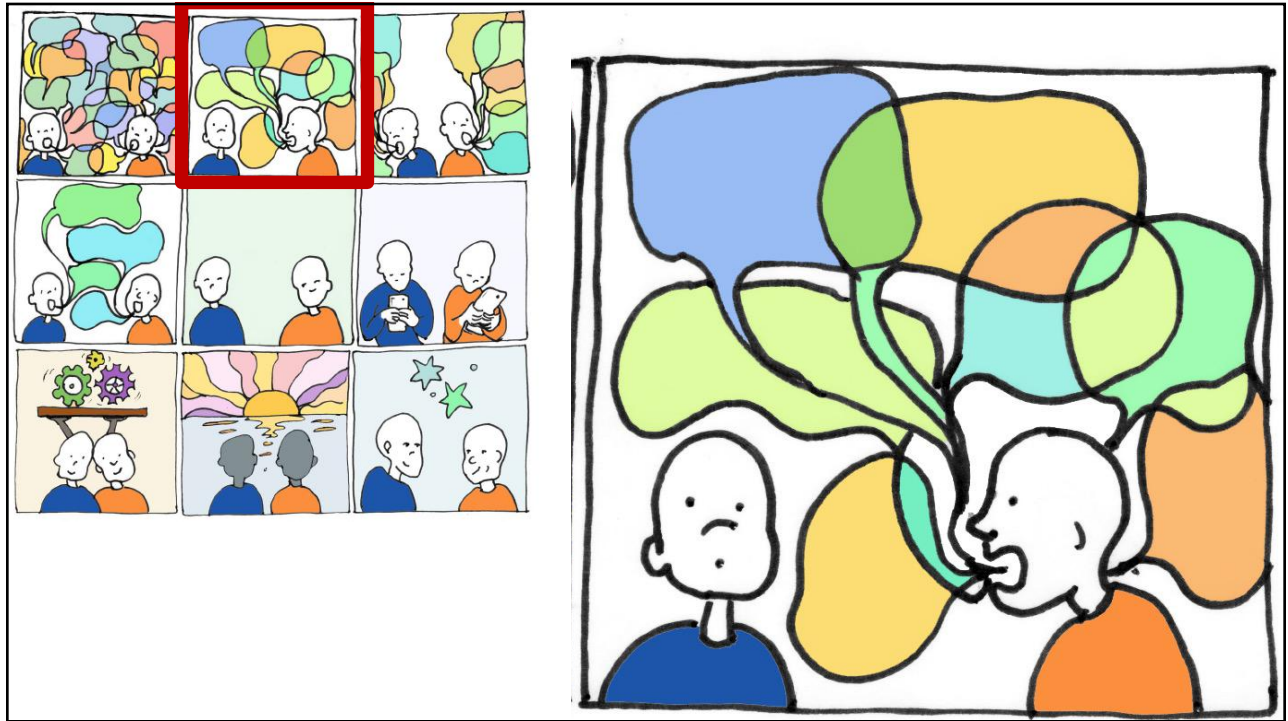
## Pictures of Relationships

Co-presence = I'm aware that you're aware of me

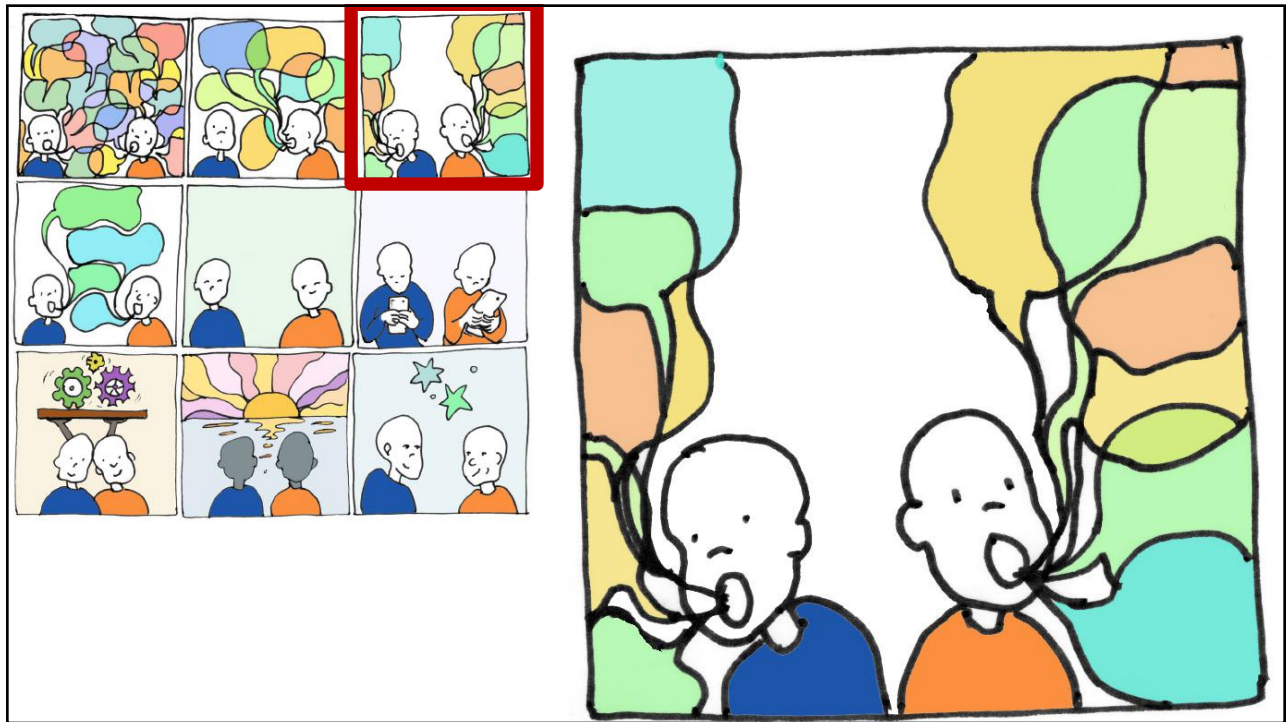
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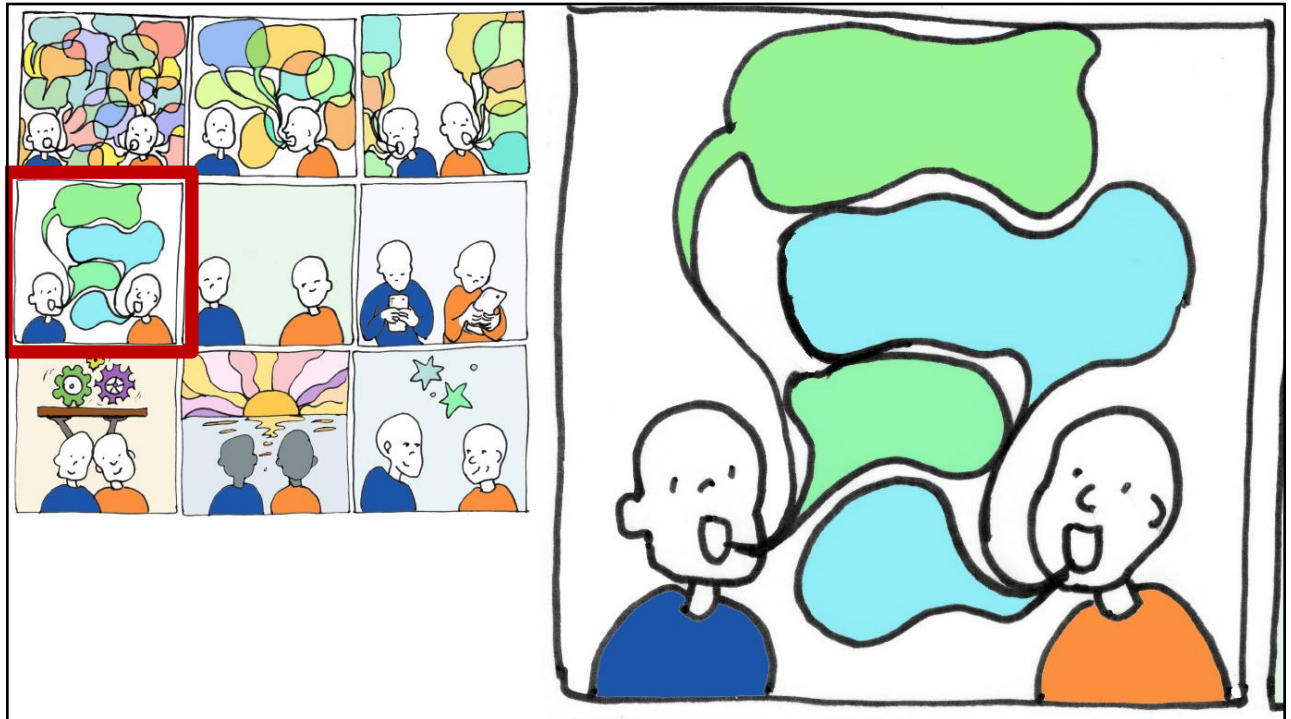
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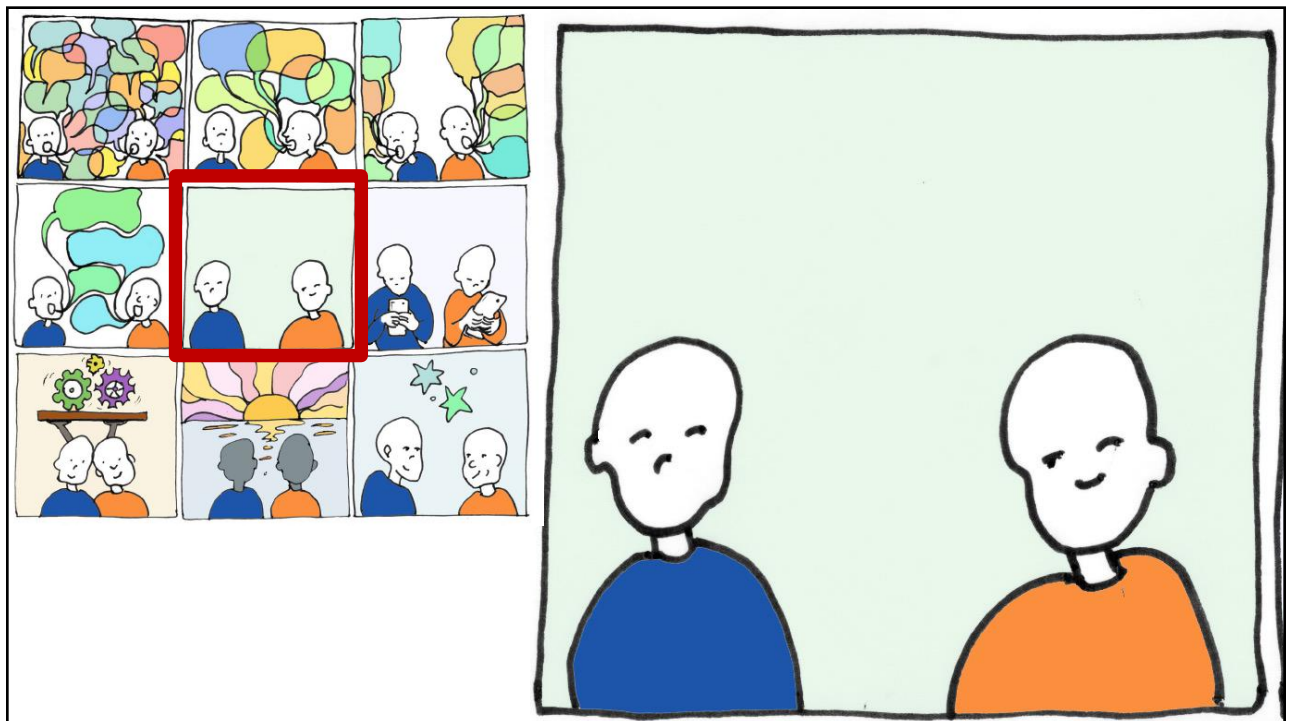
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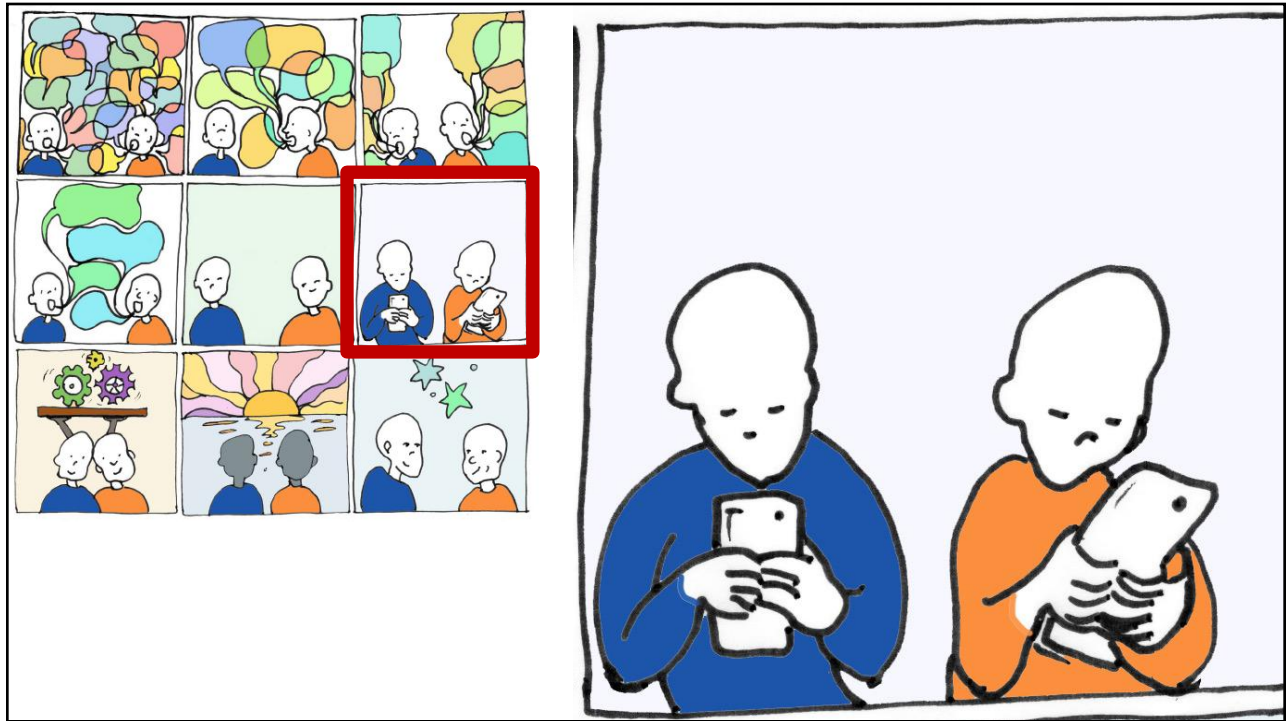


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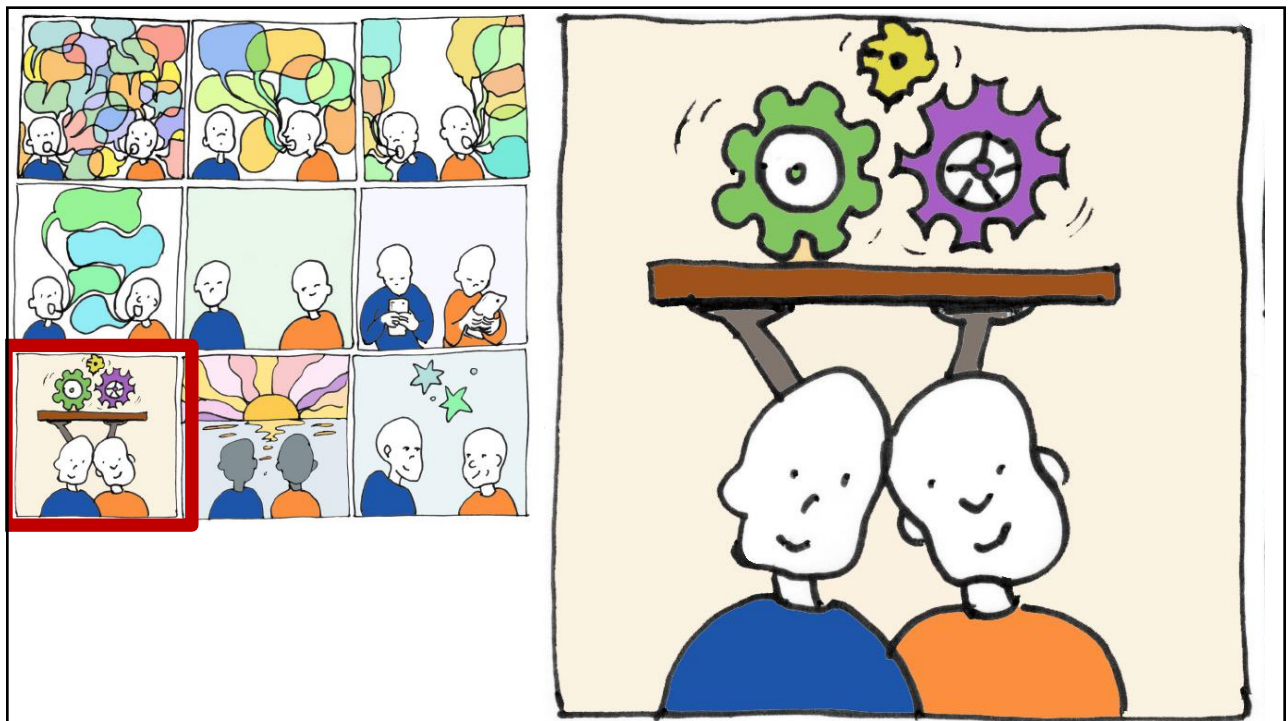


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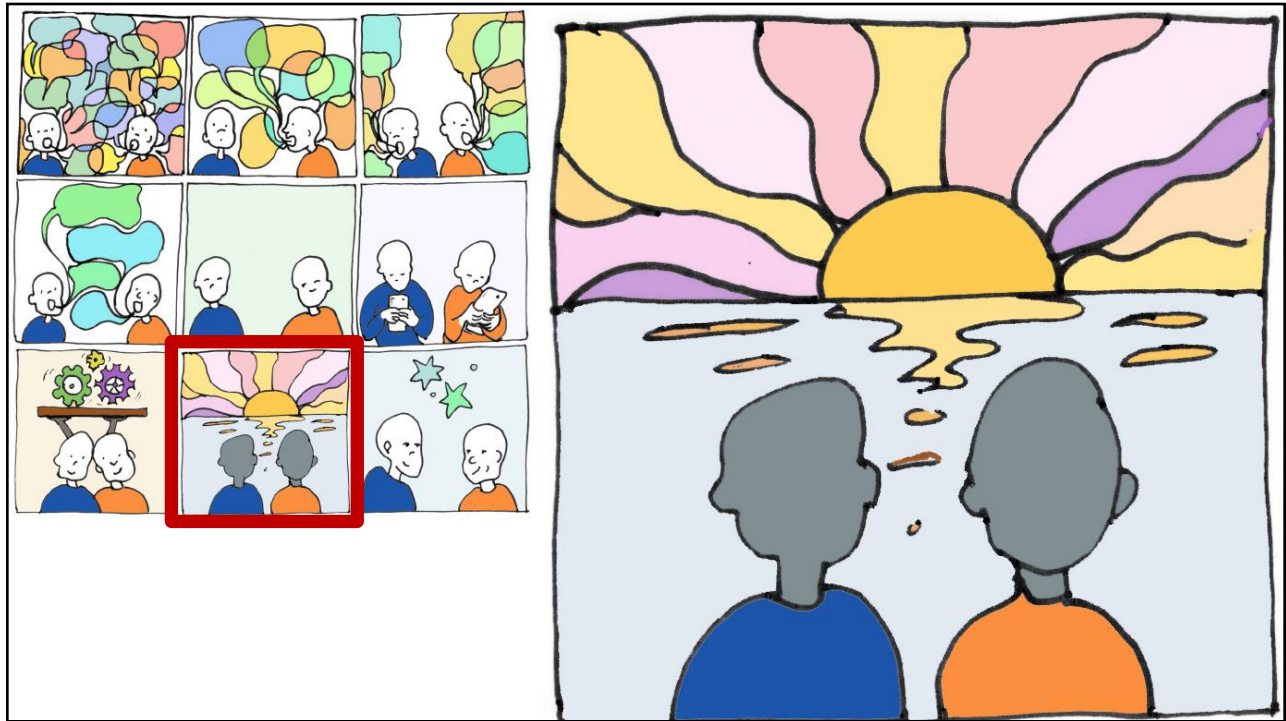




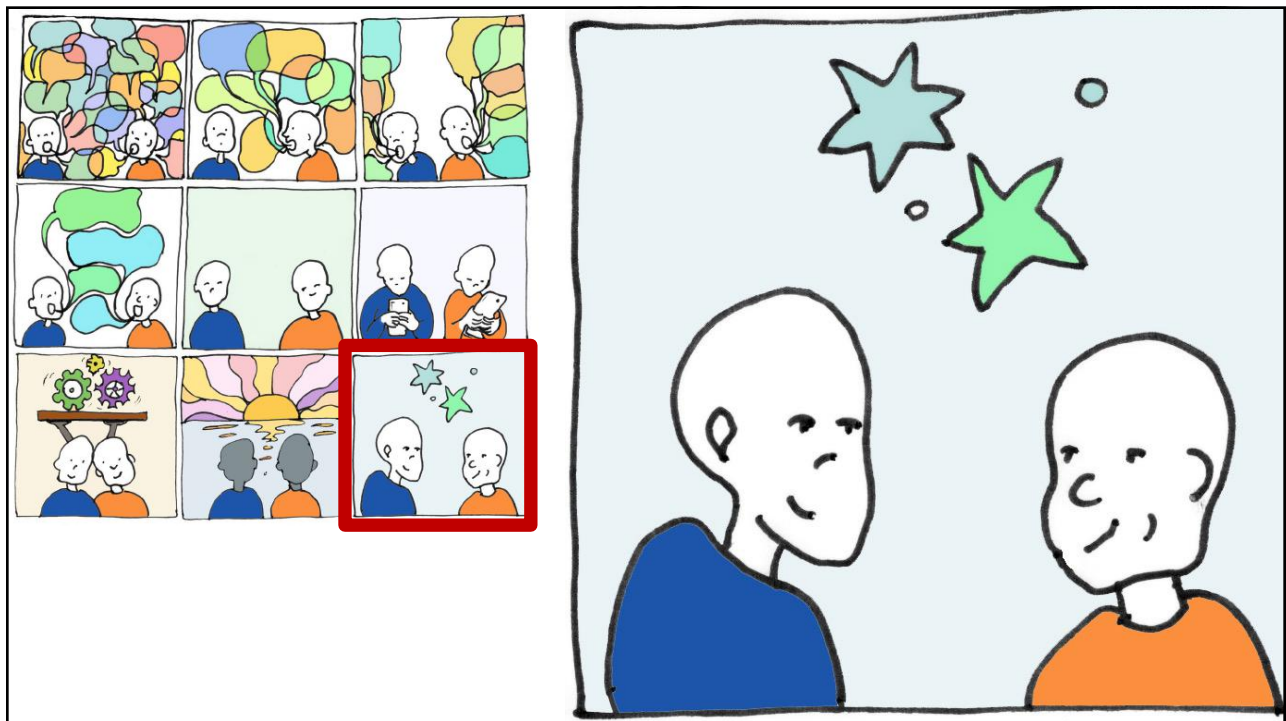
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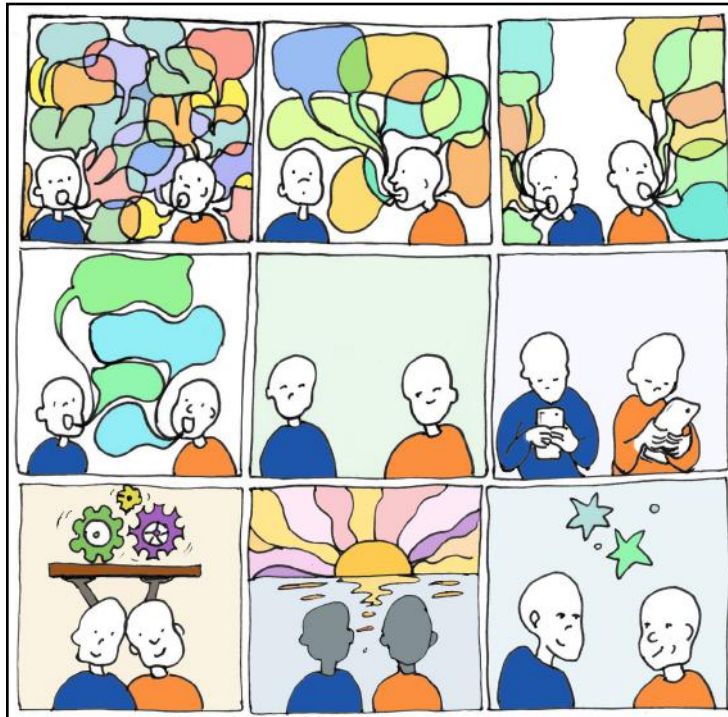
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What might  
'co-presence'  
with God look like  
and feel like?

Which pictures  
reflect  
your relationship  
with God?

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## The Big Idea

True joy and confidence only come through  
a **growing relationship** with Jesus Christ

Goal: A life with growing co-presence with God

- I'm aware that He is aware of me
- I love Him because of His love for me

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## Action Steps

### Find our joy and confidence in the Lord

- Value our relationship with God as the most important part of our lives
- "I say to the LORD, 'You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing.'"
 

Psalm 16:2
- Where do we tend to look for joy or confidence?

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## Action Steps

### Find our joy and confidence in the Lord

- "I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead."
 

Philippians 3:10-11

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## **Action Steps**

### **Find our joy and confidence in the Lord**

- Paul: everything else is like garbage compared to the joy and confidence of a genuine relationship with Jesus Christ
  - Co-presence with the creator of the universe!!
- What (hoped for) confidence to lay down...

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## **Action Steps**

### **Grow our relationship with Christ**

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## **What 'a relationship with Christ' means**

**To be known by Christ:** "Christ Jesus took hold of me"

- Forgiveness and adoption (grace)
- The life of God in us (new birth)

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## **What 'a relationship with Christ' means**

**To be known by Christ:** "Christ Jesus took hold of me"

**To know Christ**

- His Word, actions, and character

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## **What 'a relationship with Christ' means**

**To be known by Christ:** "Christ Jesus took hold of me"

**To know Christ**

**God's power in us**

- the fruit of the Spirit (especially in hard times)
- transformation in action

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## **What 'a relationship with Christ' means**

**To be known by Christ:** "Christ Jesus took hold of me"

**To know Christ**

**God's power in us**

**Opening our hearts to Him:** us 'speaking'

- prayer (broadly understood)

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## **What 'a relationship with Christ' means**

**To be known by Christ:** "Christ Jesus took hold of me"

**To know Christ**

**God's power in us:**

**Opening our hearts to Him:** us 'speaking'

**On the path where He leads**

- Even participation in his sufferings
- With the hope of eternal life with Him

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## **What 'a relationship with Christ' means**

**To be known by Christ:** "Christ Jesus took hold of me"

**To know Christ**

**God's power in us:**

**Opening our hearts to Him:** us 'speaking'

**On the path where He leads**

**His Spirit testifying to our spirit:** God 'speaking'

- Conviction of sin
- Assurance of forgiveness
- Assurance of God's love and relationship
- Direction in times of choices

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## **What 'a relationship with Christ' means**

### **The relationship is not...**

- A transaction
- A way to get from God what we want

### **The relationship is...**

- Giving of ourselves to God
- Receiving the person of God
- Longing for God 'calling me heavenward in Christ'

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## **Action Steps**

### **Grow our relationship with Christ**

- How to grow our relationship
  - **Trust Christ, especially His love and grace**
    - And because of this love and grace...

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## **Action Steps**

### **Grow our relationship with Christ**

- How to grow our relationship
  - **Trust Christ, especially His love and grace**
  - **Speak and listen**
    - Pray (speak and listen)
    - Be nourished by the Bible (listen)
    - Worship (listen and speak)
    - Paying attention to the Spirit's testimony in us

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## **Action Steps**

### **Grow our relationship with Christ**

- How to grow our relationship
  - **Trust Christ, especially His love and grace**
  - **Speak and listen**
  - **Obey as an expression of love**
    - By the Spirit's power at work in us

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## **Action Steps**

### **Grow our relationship with Christ**

- How to grow our relationship
  - **Trust Christ, especially His love and grace**
  - **Speak and listen**
  - **Obey as an expression of love**
  - **Together with Christ's people (His body)**
    - Worship services, Life Groups, true friendships, ...
    - Spurring each other on in Christ
    - Obeying and serving together

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## **Action Steps**

### **Grow our relationship with Christ**

- How to grow our relationship
  - **Trust Christ, especially His love and grace**
  - **Speak and listen**
  - **Obey as an expression of love**
  - **Together with Christ's people (His body)**
  - **Daily**


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“Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me **will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.**”

John 14:21

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**FIND & FOLLOW**



- **Having New Life from God**
- **Growing in relationship with Christ**
- **Growing into godliness**
- **Living on Christ's mission**

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“God rewards those who earnestly seek him.”  
Hebrews 11:6

What do we pursue, even at a high cost?

What pursuit is abundantly worth it, even at a high cost?

Paul’s goal: **abounding joy and confidence through growing our relationship with Christ**

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### **Pursuits**

What do people pursue, even sacrificing time, money, effort, comfort, ...?

Why do we pursue these things?

What should we pursue?

The invitation: **Make Jesus Christ our greatest treasure and confidence**

**“I will boast ever only in the Lord my God for I know His glory is my good.”**

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