

*“Follow Me, and
I will make you...”*

—Matthew 4:19

IN HIS STEPS
INTENTIONAL
DISCIPLESHIP

 LifeChurch
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ONE 3/4/15
Intentional Discipleship
John 18:37
A decision for discipleship

*“Follow Me, and
I will make you...”*

—Matthew 4:19

IN HIS STEPS
TRANSFORMATIONAL
DISCIPLESHIP

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TWO
Transformational Discipleship
Romans 12:1-2
Conforming to Christ

*“Follow Me, and
I will make you...”*

—Matthew 4:19

IN HIS STEPS
THE SUBMISSION OF
DISCIPLESHIP

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THREE
The Submission of Discipleship
Philippians 2:5–8
Surrender to serve



Follow Jesus

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, ...”

—Hebrews 12:1-3 NLT

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—Hebrews 12:5-8 NLT



Follow Jesus

“... who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.”

—Hebrews 12:1-3 NLT

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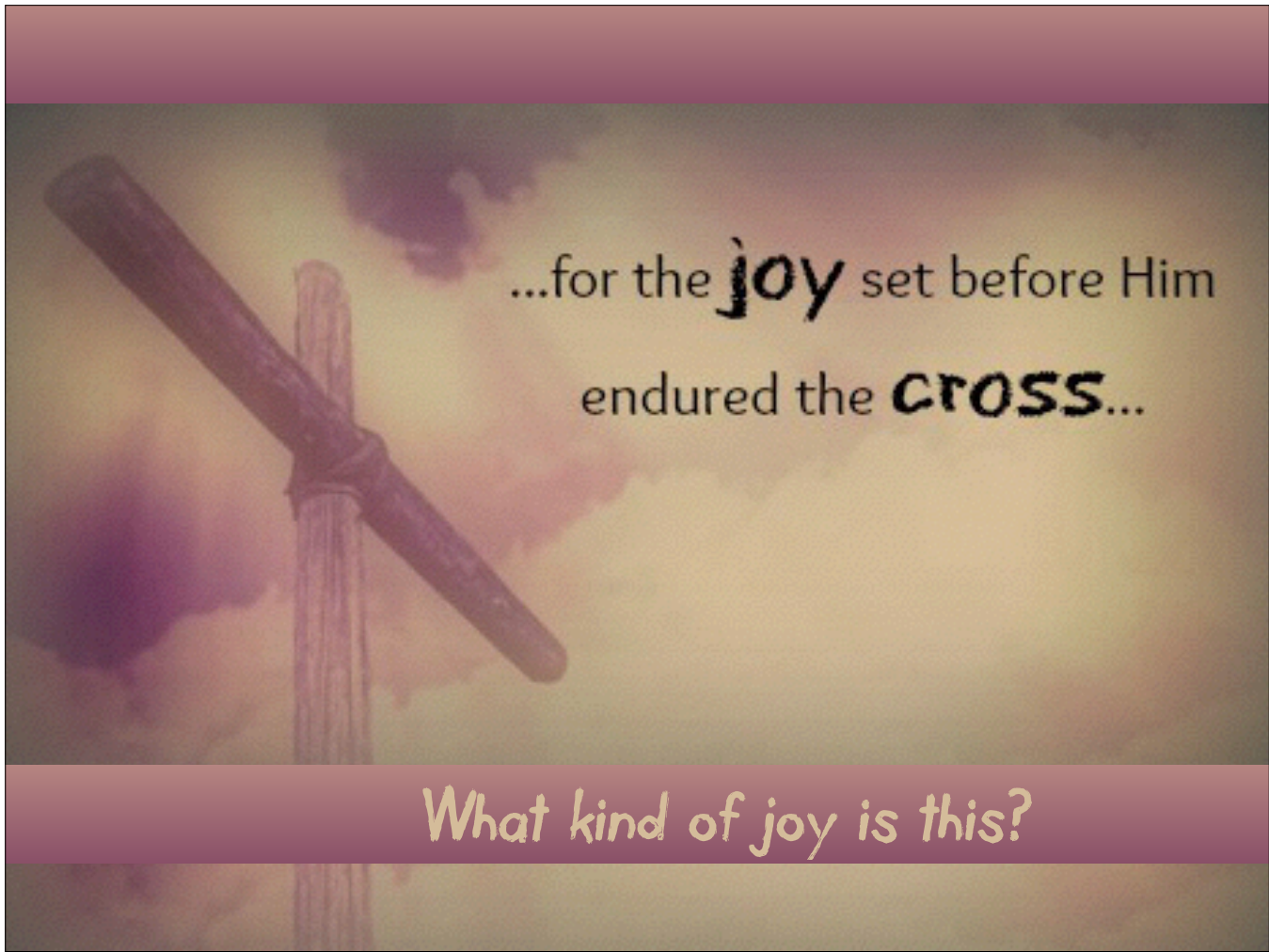
IN HIS STEPS
THE REWARDS OF
DISCIPLESHIP

 **LifeChurch**
www.LifeChurchAZ.net

April 15, 2015
Lead Pastor
Terry R Baughman

FOUR

The Rewards of Discipleship
“For the Joy!”

A wooden cross is shown against a background of a sunset or sunrise sky with soft, colorful clouds in shades of orange, yellow, and purple. The cross is made of two weathered wooden beams. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

...for the **joy** set before Him
endured the **CROSS**...

What kind of joy is this?



“... who for the joy



... that was set before Him”

for the joy that was set before Him
The outcome was the source of joy.



Some things are worth the cost!
—“The tassel is worth the hassle”

**NO PAIN
NO GAIN**



People are willing to suffer pain to get fit ... compete in athletics ... lose weight ... win a bet...
Why do we think discipleship should be an easy road?

Reward of Discipline



“In this all-out match against sin, others have suffered far worse than you, to say nothing of what Jesus went through—all that bloodshed! So don’t feel sorry for yourselves. Or have you forgotten how good parents treat children, and that God regards you as his children?”

My dear child, don’t shrug off God’s discipline,

but don’t be crushed by it either.

It’s the child he loves that he disciplines;
the child he embraces, he also corrects.

The Message: Hebrews 12:4-11

There is a purpose in Discipline

The Message:

Hebrews 12:4-11 “In this all-out match against sin, others have suffered far worse than you, to say nothing of what Jesus went through—all that bloodshed! So don’t feel sorry for yourselves. Or have you forgotten how good parents treat children, and that God regards you as his children?”

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Reward of Discipline



“God is educating you; that’s why you must never drop out. He’s treating you as dear children. This trouble you’re in isn’t punishment; it’s training, the normal experience of children. Only irresponsible parents leave children to fend for themselves. Would you prefer an irresponsible God? We respect our own parents for training and not spoiling us, so why not embrace God’s training so we can truly live?”

The Message: Hebrews 12:4-11

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Hebrews 12:4-11

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Reward of Discipline



“While we were children, our parents did what seemed best to them. But God is doing what is best for us, training us to live God’s holy best. At the time, discipline isn’t much fun. It always feels like it’s going against the grain. Later, of course, it pays off handsomely, for it’s the well-trained who find themselves mature in their relationship with God.”

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Has God every put
you in “time-out”?



“No discipline
seems pleasant at
the time, but painful.
Later on, however, it
produces a harvest
of righteousness
and peace for those
who have been
trained by it.”
—Hebrews 12:11

Has God every put you in “time-out”?

Hebrews 12:11 NIV “No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace(R) for those who have been trained by it.”

—12 Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. 13 “Make level paths for your feet,” so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

Reward of Suffering



The godly will suffer persecution

“But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

2 Timothy 3:10-12 NKJV

Jesus gave us an example of how to endure suffering and persecution

—“who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame,”

The godly will suffer persecution

—Paul suffered persecution:

NKJ 2 Timothy 3:10 But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, 11 persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. 12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

Reward of Suffering



The believer participates in suffering

“Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.”

—1 Peter 4:12-14 NIV

The believer “participates in the suffering of Christ”

1 Peter 4:12-14 (NIV) 12 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

13 But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

Reward of Suffering



Followers of Jesus have suffered

“Because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

—1 Thessalonians 1:5-7 NIV

Followers of Jesus have Suffered (in Thessalonica)

1 Thessalonians 1:5-7 NIV

5 because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake.

6 You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. 7 And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

NKJV — “much affliction”

Reward of Suffering

The Glory is beyond Comparison



“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

—Romans 8:16-18 NKJV

The Glory cannot be compared with the suffering!

Romans 8:16-18 NKJV

16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

- Won't it be wonderful there
Having no burdens to bear
Joyously singing,
with heart bells all ringing
Won't it be wonderful there?

When with the savior we enter the glory land
Won't it be wonderful there
Ended the troubles and cares of the story land
Won't it be wonderful there?

Chorus:
Won't it be wonderful there
Having no burdens to bear
Joyously singing, with heart bells all ringing
Won't it be wonderful there?

- It will be worth it all when we see Jesus,
Life's trials will seem so small when we see Christ;
One glimpse of His dear face all sorrow will erase,
So bravely run the race till we see Christ.

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Life's trials will seem so small when we see Christ;
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Reward of Suffering



The indescribable joy of Suffering

“And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

—Acts 5:40-42 NKJV

The indescribable joy in suffering

Acts 5:40-42

40 And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. 41 So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. 42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.



The Ministry of Suffering

Philippians 1 (NIV) - Paul writes while incarcerated — the result of his imprisonment:

12 Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. 13 As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. 14 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.

16 ,, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel.

18 ,, The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, 19 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. 20 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. 21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 22 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! 23 I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; 24 but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. 25 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, 26 so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

27 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 28 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. 29 For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but

Reward of Suffering

Continue to do Good



“However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. For it is time for judgment to begin with God’s household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

And, “If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?” So then, those who suffer according to God’s will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

—1 Peter 4:16 -19 NIV

Continue to do Good

NIV 1 Peter 4:16 However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. 17 For it is time for judgment to begin with God’s household;(AB) and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

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19 So then, those who suffer according to God’s will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

- What kind of joy is this
That counts it a blessing to suffer
What kind of joy is this
That gives the prisoner his song
What kind of joy could stare death in the face
And see it as sweet victory
This is the joy of a soul that's forgiven and free

What kind of joy is this

—Steven Curtis Chapman

Anybody in their right mind
Would've given up their preaching and headed for home
They've been warned a hundred times
But something inside them keeps giving them hope
And just when you think they'd be crying
Instead of the tears, there's joy in their eyes

CHORUS 1

What kind of joy is this
That counts it a blessing to suffer
What kind of joy is this
That gives the prisoner his song
What kind of joy could stare death in the face
And see it as sweet victory
This is the joy of a soul that's forgiven and free

Anybody else with his pain
Would want to shake their fist at heaven

- What kind of joy is this
The Father has promised his children
What kind of joy is this
That Jesus has come to reveal
What kind of joy could give hope in this world
To someone just like you and me
This is the joy of a soul that's forgiven and free

What kind of joy is this

—Steven Curtis Chapman

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Becoming Christ Followers

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