


A close-up photograph of a hand holding a lit sparkler. The sparkler is bright and glowing, with many sparks flying out. The background is dark and out of focus, showing some faint light trails. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

The Fellowship of the Gospel

— Philippians 1:3-8 —

A hand holding a lit sparkler against a dark background. The sparkler is bright and glowing, with many sparks flying out. The hand is wearing a dark, textured glove. The background is dark and out of focus.

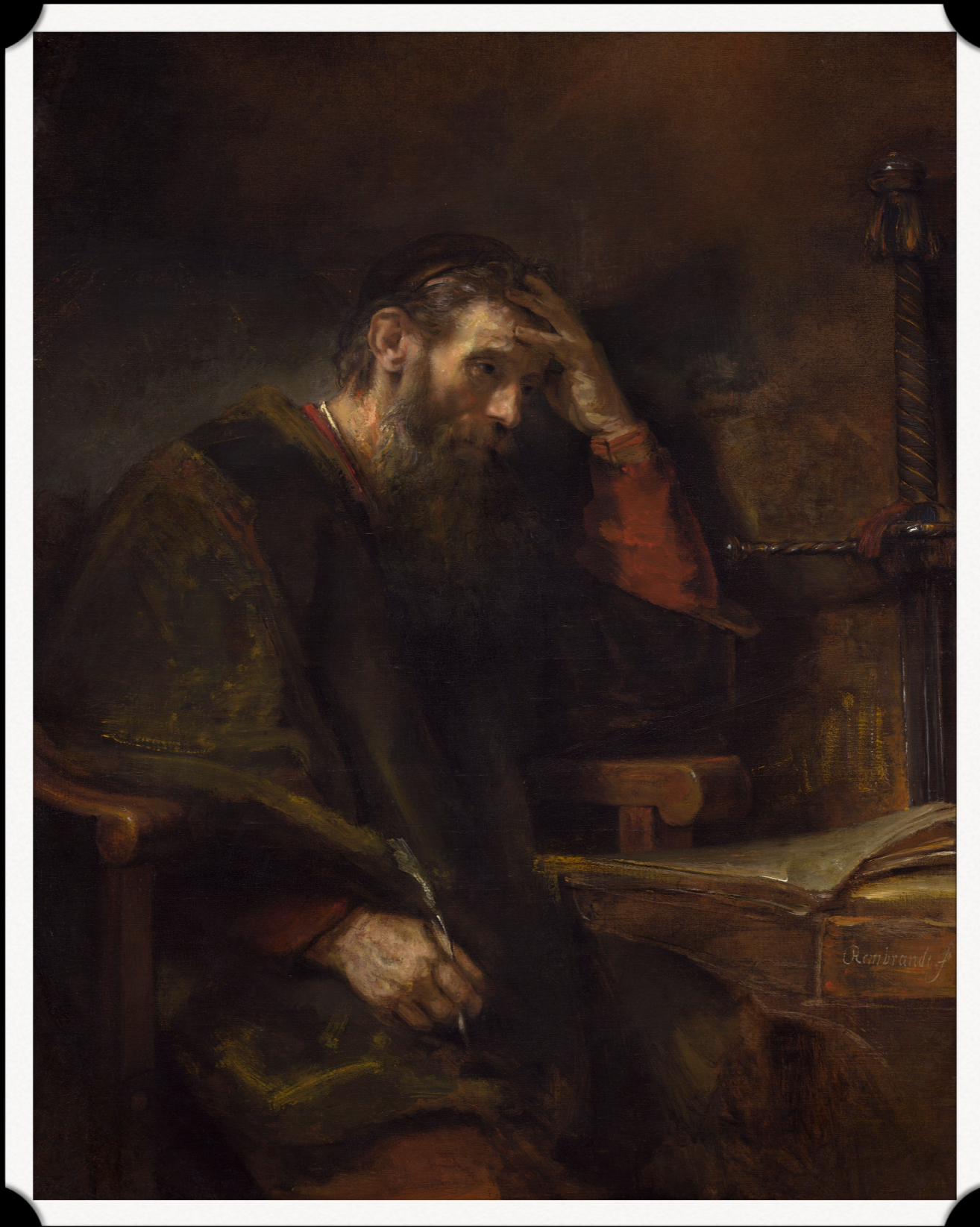
Finding Joy

PHILIPPIANS

Right Where You Are

**If you could
interview
anyone from
history, who
would you
want to meet**





— *The Apostle Paul*, by Rembrandt c. 1657 —



...far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea;



on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food,



in cold and exposure. And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak...? If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying.

The Apostle Paul

— 2 Corinthians 11:23ff —



A close-up photograph of a hand holding a lit sparkler. The sparkler is bright and glowing, with many sparks flying out. The background is dark and out of focus, showing some faint light trails. The overall mood is celebratory and warm.

The Fellowship of the Gospel

— Philippians 1:3-8 —

Philippians 1

**3 I thank my God in all my remembrance
of you....**

It can be truly said that Christianity is about a personal relationship with God (“my God”) through Jesus Christ.

But even though it is a personal relationship, it is not a private relationship because it immerses us in the fellowship of the Gospel.


Philippians 1

3 I **thank** my God in all my remembrance
of you, 4 always in **every prayer** of mine
for you all making **my prayer** with joy....,

**I thank my God every time
I remember you.
In all my prayers for all of you,
I always pray with joy.**

— The New International Version (NIV) —

**I thank my God every time
I remember you.
In all my prayers for all of you,
I always pray with joy.**



Paul surfaces **the theme of joy / rejoicing**
that will be repeated some 16x in this letter.

Philippians 1

3 I thank my God in all my remembrance
of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine
for you all making my prayer with joy,
5 because of your **partnership** in the
gospel from the first day until now.

GEEKING OUT ON GREEK

partnership = *koinonia* (κοινωνία)



**A partnership, a participation,
an association or communion,
a fellowship.**



Map of Middle-earth showing regions: Rohan, Gondor, Mirkwood, Moria, and others. Key locations include Isengard, Helm's Deep, Sarn Gebir, and the Mountains of Shadow.





— The Fellowship of the Ring —

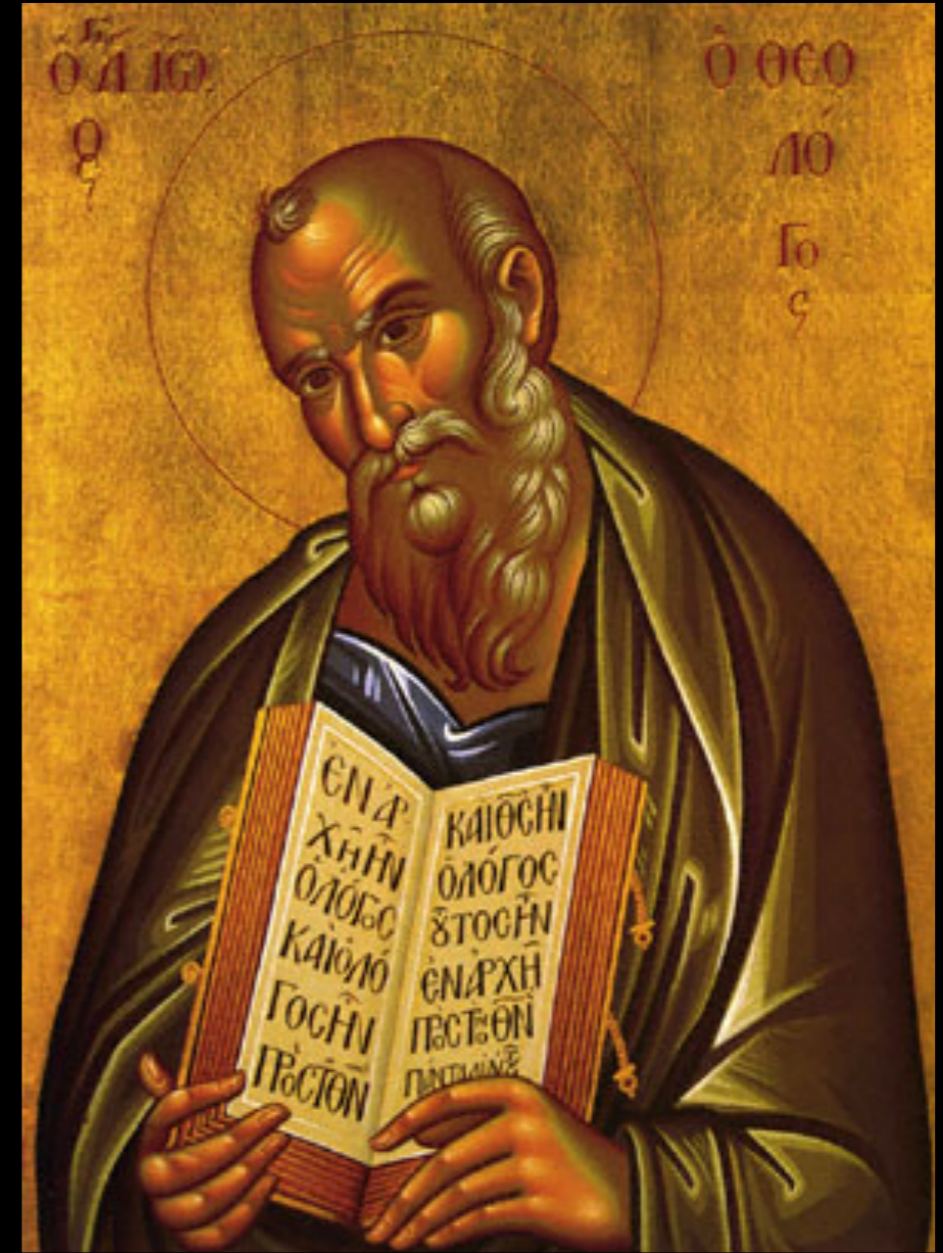
Philippians 1

3 I thank my God in all my remembrance
of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine
for you all making my prayer with joy,
5 **because of your partnership in the
gospel from the first day until now.**

*These Philippian saints had entered into
“the fellowship of the gospel” with Paul
with the mission of spreading the Good News
about the world’s true Lord & Savior, Jesus.*

**I have no greater joy
than to hear that
my children are
walking in the truth.**

The Apostle John
— 3 John 1:4 —





**...do not be ashamed
of the testimony about
our Lord, nor of me his
prisoner, but share in
suffering for the gospel
by the power of God,
who saved us and
called us to a holy
calling....**

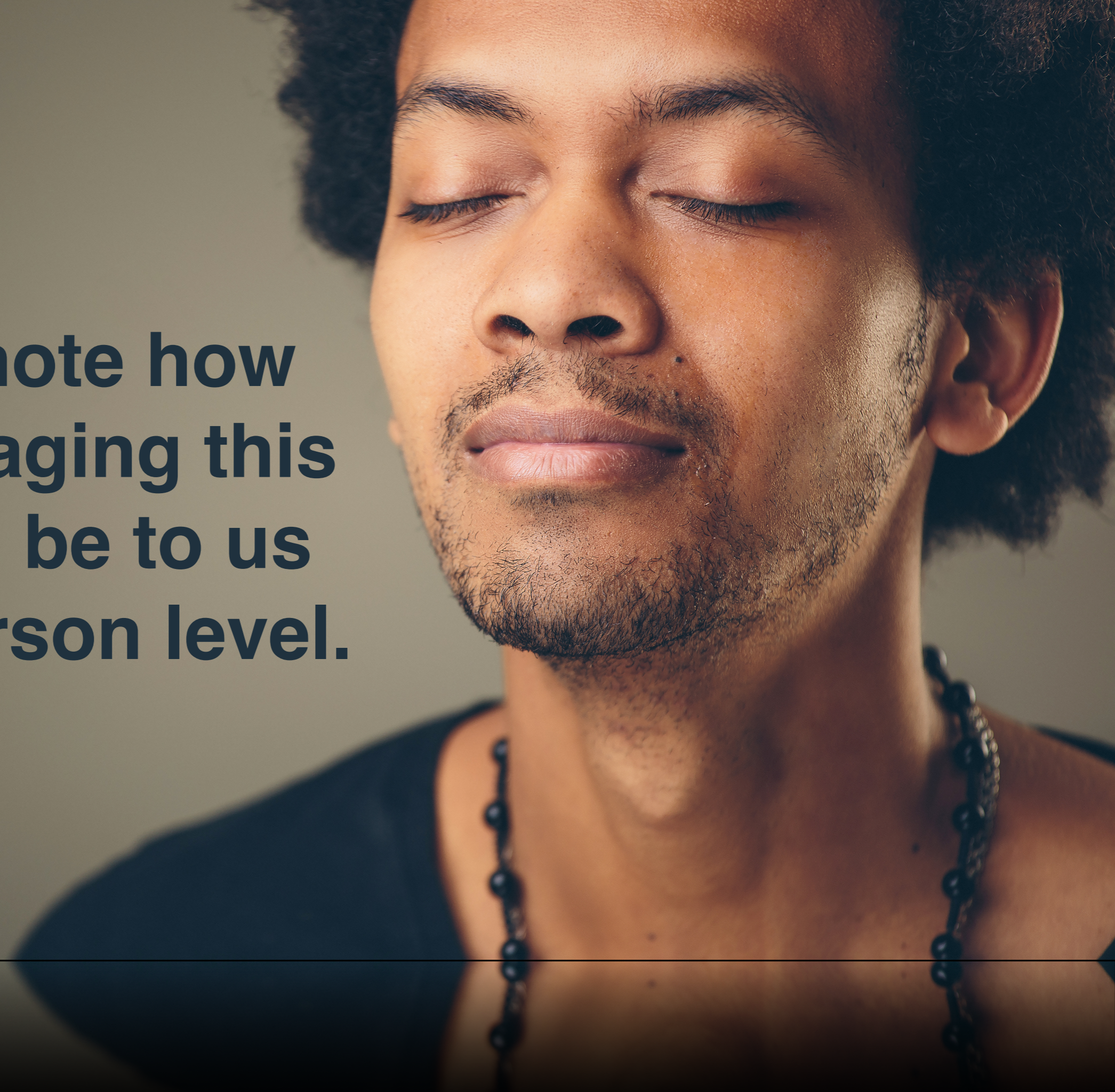


— 2 Timothy 1:8-9 —

Philippians 1

6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

**Let's note how
encouraging this
should be to us
on a person level.**





On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer.



We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there.



One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God.



The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. [And] she and the members of her household were baptized....



I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number...crying out with a loud voice..., “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”


— Revelation 7:9-10 —

Past-Present-Future Aspects Our Salvation

<p>The Past: We have been saved from.</p>	<p>...by grace <u>you have been saved...</u> (Ephesians 2:5)</p>
<p>The Present: We are being saved.</p>	<p>...the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which <u>you are being saved...</u> (1 Corinthians 15:1-2)</p>
<p>The Future: We will be saved.</p>	<p>...we believe that <u>we will be saved</u> through the grace of the Lord Jesus.... (Acts 15:11)</p>

Philippians 1

**6 And I am sure of this, that he who
began a good work in you will bring it to
completion at the day of Jesus Christ.**



**He who began
a good work
in me will bring it
to completion!**

God's got you!





God's got you!

“I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father...is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.”

— Jesus in John 10:28-29 —



**I have given God
countless reasons
not to love me.
Not one of them has
been strong enough
to change Him.**

— Paul Washer —

Philippians 1

6 And I am sure of this, that **he who began a good work in you** will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

The greek is plural:

“you all” or “y’all”;

i.e., the church of Philippi

**...it has been granted
to you on behalf
of Christ...
to believe in him....**

— Philippians 1:29 —





**I will build my church, and
the gates of hell will not
prevail against it.**

Jesus of Nazareth

The Gospel of Matthew 16:18



**The Church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord
She is His new creation
by water and the Word
From heaven He came and
sought her to be His holy Bride
With His own blood He bought
her, and for her life He died**

— Samuel Stone, "The Church's One Foundation" —



**The church shall never perish
Her dear Lord to defend
To guide, sustain and cherish
is with her to the end
Though there be those that
hate her, and false sons in her
pale, Against a foe or traitor
she ever shall prevail**

— Samuel Stone, “The Church’s One Foundation” —



**Mid toil and tribulation
and tumult of her war
She waits the consummation
of peace forevermore
'Til with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blessed
And the great Church victorious
shall be the Church at rest**

— Samuel Stone, “The Church’s One Foundation” —

Philippians 1

6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

**...when he comes on
that day to be glorified
in his saints, and to be
marveled at among all
who have believed....**

— 2 Thessalonians 1:10 —





**There will be a day
when all will bow before Him
There will be a day
when death will be no more
Standing face to face
with Christ who rose again
Holy, Holy is the Lord**

— Phil Wickham's "Hymn of Heaven" —

Philippians 1

7 It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart,
for you are all partakers with me of
grace, both in my imprisonment and in
the defense and confirmation the
gospel.

Philippians 1

7 It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace,

from the same root as koinonia + “with”

=

“for you are partners with me in grace”

**...the grace that is
reaching more and
more people may
cause thanksgiving
to overflow to the
glory of God.**

— 2 Corinthians 4:15 —



Philippians 1

7 It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation the gospel.

Philippians 1

**8 For God is my witness, how I yearn for
you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.**

Philippians 1

8 For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.



Literally, "in the intestines of Christ Jesus"

Philippians 1

8 For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.



Literally, "in the intestines of Christ Jesus"

*The love that Jesus feels for you
in his gut, I feel that for you all too!*



Let's live into the reality that the fellowship of the gospel establishes bonds of affection among believers.

- **Every time I think of you, I pray with joy to God**
- **It's right for me to feel this way about you, because I hold you in my heart**
- **I yearn for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ**



The Jewish Apostle Paul to Gentile (former pagan) believers

**It is my prayer
that your love
may abound
more and more....**

— Philippians 1:9 —



Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more....

— 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10 —



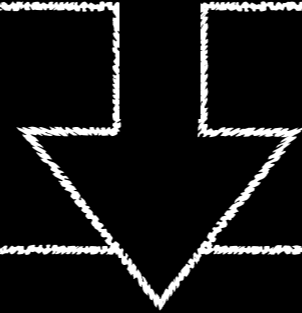


What if God worked something in us which is pleasing in His sight, namely a deep love and an abiding affection for one another?

**Part of finding
joy right where
you are is living
into this kind
of community with
other followers
of Jesus.**



The Gospel of Jesus



The Community of Jesus



Let's live into the reality that the fellowship of the gospel establishes bonds of affection among believers.

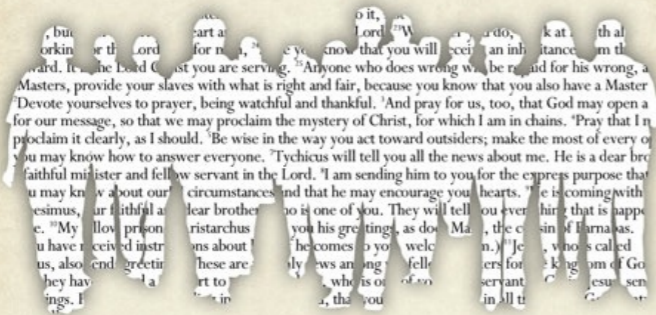
Let's embody the reality that the fellowship of the gospel establishes partnerships that promote the gospel of Christ to the world.



Forewords by ALISTER MCGRATH & RAVI ZACHARIAS

JOHN DICKSON

The Best Kept Secret of Christian Mission



Promoting the Gospel with More Than Our Lips

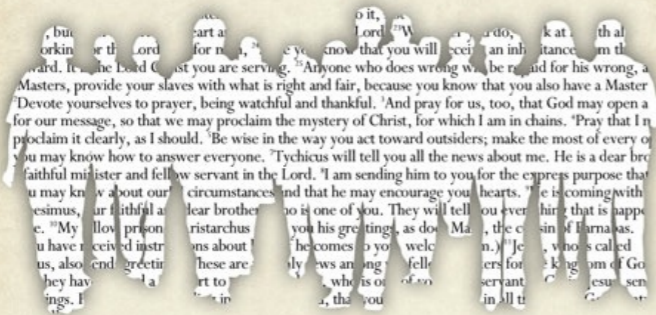
Promoting the Gospel with More Than Our Lips

**The best kept secret of
Christian mission is
that the Bible lists a
whole range of
activities that promote
Christ to the world and
draw others to Him.**

Forewords by ALISTER MCGRATH & RAVI ZACHARIAS

JOHN DICKSON

The Best Kept Secret of Christian Mission



Promoting the Gospel with More Than Our Lips

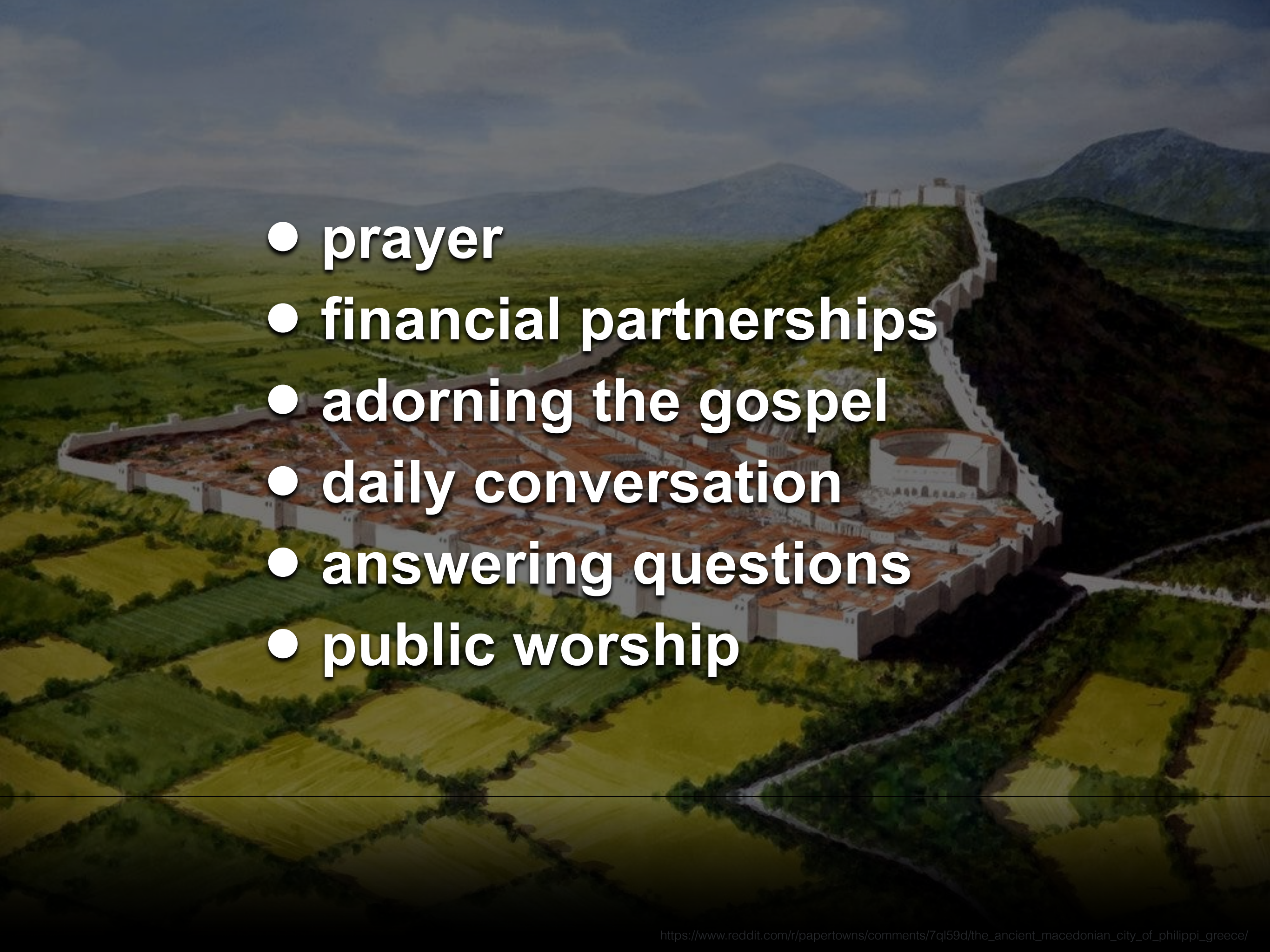
Promoting the Gospel with More Than Our Lips

- prayer
- financial partnerships
- adorning the gospel
- daily conversation
- answering questions
- public worship



**Pastor, let's
GO BIG or
go home!**



- 
- An aerial photograph of an ancient walled city built on a hillside. The city features a prominent white wall with a crenelated top, enclosing a cluster of buildings with reddish-brown roofs. The surrounding landscape is a mix of green fields and dark, forested slopes. In the background, rolling hills and mountains are visible under a cloudy sky.
- **prayer**
 - **financial partnerships**
 - **adorning the gospel**
 - **daily conversation**
 - **answering questions**
 - **public worship**

**Ask yourself,
“What would it look like
for me to engage
the mission of Jesus?”**



- **prayer**
- **financial partnerships**
- **adorning the gospel**
- **daily conversation**
- **answering questions**
- **public worship**



Open yourself up to new possibilities of being used by Jesus to advance His mission, because God doesn't ask about our ability or inability but only about our availability.



**Part of finding
joy right where
you are is living
for this mission
of promoting
the gospel of
Jesus.**



The Gospel of Jesus



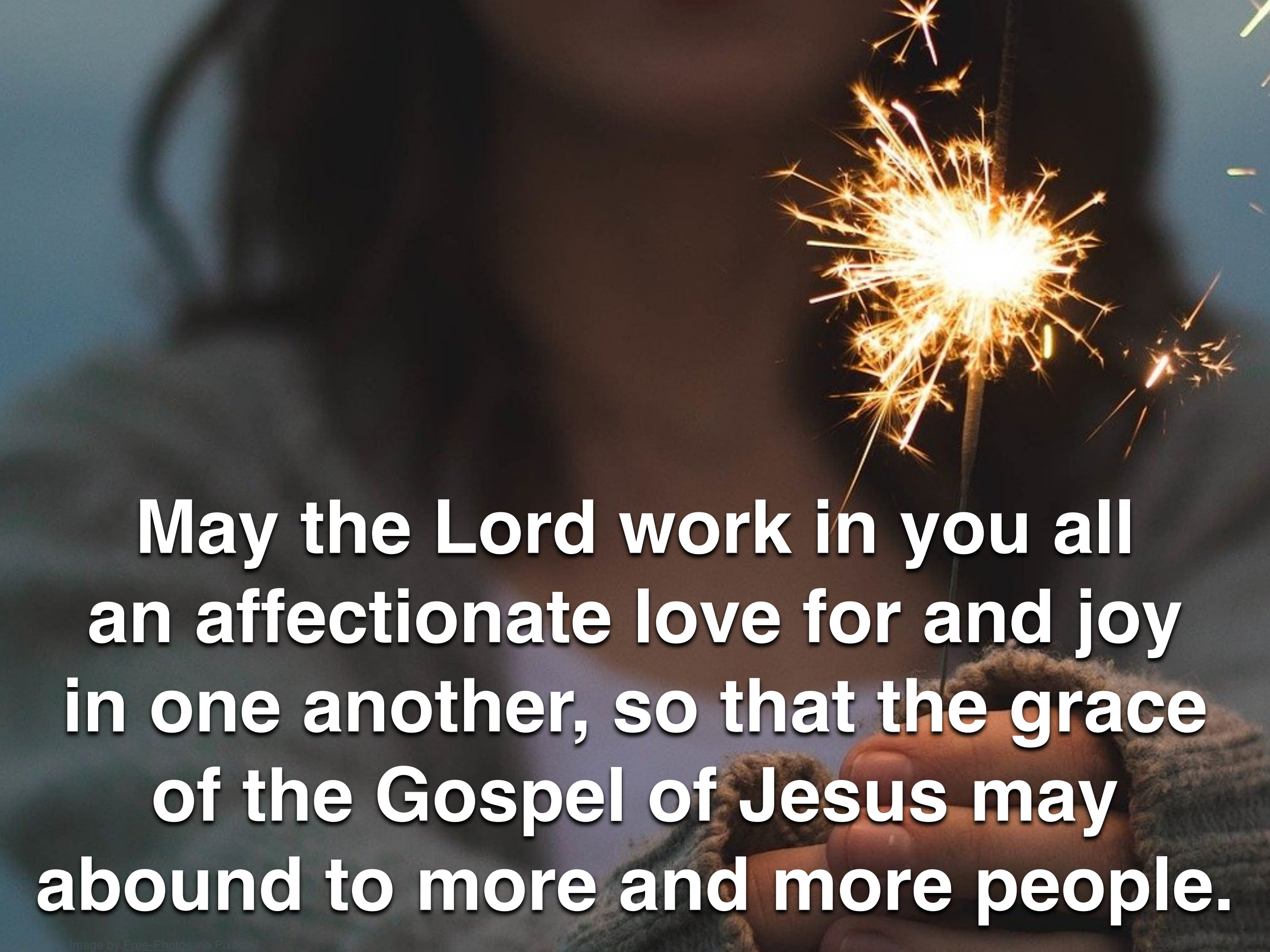
The Community of Jesus



The Mission of Jesus



**What if we began
to see ourselves
as a fellowship
of the Gospel?**

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a lit sparkler. The sparkler is in full bloom, with a bright, glowing center and numerous thin, golden sparks radiating outwards. The background is a dark, deep blue night sky, with a few other distant sparklers visible. The overall mood is celebratory and joyful.

**May the Lord work in you all
an affectionate love for and joy
in one another, so that the grace
of the Gospel of Jesus may
abound to more and more people.**