

Living With Godfidence | Episode 5 | Pastor Bill 7-6-25

Summary

'Godfidence' - the assurance that God is with us and at work in our lives.

Using Philippians 3, Pastor Bill explains how Godfidence protects us from spiritual dangers, propels us into greater closeness with Christ, and brings us joy. He emphasized that knowing Jesus more is worth giving up anything else we might value, just as Paul considered everything a loss compared to the surpassing worth of knowing Christ.

Ice Breaker

What was something of value that you have had to give up to get something of even more value?

Key Verses

Philippians 3:1-14

3 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. ²Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh. ³For 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— ⁴though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

⁷But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸What 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 ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in^[a] Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not 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. ¹³Brothers 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, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Questions

1. Pastor Bill mentioned that Paul uses the word 'joy' or 'rejoice' 14 times in Philippians. Why do you think joy is such an important theme in a letter written from prison?
2. In what ways have you experienced spiritual resistance when trying to follow Jesus more closely?
3. Paul lists his impressive credentials and accomplishments in verses 4-6, then calls them 'garbage' compared to knowing Christ. What things in your life might be keeping you from knowing Jesus more deeply?
4. The sermon stated that 'the more joy we have in Jesus, the more we're going to live for Him.' How have you found this to be true in your own life?
5. What are some practical ways you can 'rejoice in the Lord' even during difficult circumstances?
6. Pastor Bill asked, 'What are you willing to lose that you might gain Christ more?' How would you answer this question?
7. How does living with the assurance that 'God is with me and at work in my life' change how you approach challenges?
8. What is one specific next step you feel God calling you to take to know Jesus more?

Life Application

This week, identify one thing that might be hindering you from knowing Jesus more deeply. It could be a habit, a relationship, a time commitment, or even a fear. Commit to surrendering this to God and replacing it with something that helps you know Christ better - perhaps more time in prayer, Bible study, serving others, or sharing your faith. Journal about what changes you notice in your joy level and your relationship with God as you make this exchange.

Key Takeaways

- Godfidence (the assurance that God is with us and at work in our lives) protects us from spiritual dangers, propels us toward Christ, and brings us joy.
- When we decide to follow Jesus or take a next step in faith, we will always encounter some form of spiritual resistance.
- Like Paul, we should consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus.
- The more we rejoice in the Lord, the more we will live for Him.
- Knowing Jesus more is worth giving up anything else this world has to offer.