

### INTRODUCTION

- When faced with challenges, our initial reaction is often a sense of being overwhelmed. There is a heightened awareness of our human limitations.
- While accepting we are weak, the believer does not sink into helplessness, fear and despair.
- We can find examples of such in the Word
  - Moses in Egypt (Exodus 4, Exodus 15:2)
  - David at Ziklag (1 Samuel 30:3-6)
  - The Psalmists in times of difficulty (Psalm 46:1; Psalm 73:26)
  - Peter in testing times (1 Peter 1:5-8)
  - Paul in prison (Philippians 4:12-13 c.f. 2 Corinthians 12:10)
- What was the secret of their faith? Consider Philippians 3:7-11

(Philippians 3:7-11)

PHP 3:7 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. [8] What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ

[9] 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 and is by faith.

[10] I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, [11] and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

#### **Our Priority – Reaching out for Him (Philippians 3:7-8)**

- Desire His Presence
- Abide in His Presence
- Worship in His Presence

#### **Our Praise – Rejoicing in His Peace (Philippians 3:9)**

- Strengthened through Faith in Him
- Reassured through Hope in Him
- Secure in His Love

#### **Our Power – Receiving His Provision (Philippians 3:10-11)**

- Empowered to see as He sees
- Empowered to overcome our weaknesses
- Empowered to go beyond ourselves

### CONCLUSION

The believer who considers:

- the knowledge of Christ his greatest treasure,
- the mind of Christ his evidence,
- the love of Christ his song,
- conformity of Christ, his life
- and to be with Christ his preeminent desire

is the believer who will stand strong in all seasons.