

The Joy Loop in Community

- 1. Our Encouragement in Christ Is Detailed (1).**

- 2. It Serves as Motivation for Joyfully United Service (2).**

- 3. Our Lives Are to Be Governed by Kingdom Priorities.**

CONCLUSION: We hear the encouragement we have received in Christ detailed as a summary of the first chapter—loving comfort, Spirit-filled fellowship, affectionate family life—all recounted. This treasure trove that we have received entirely in Christ is the basis for how we are now to live. As ambassadors representing Christ we have a duty to stand firm and it is much *more* than that. It is our joyful privilege also. This grown-up joy is not just a happy feeling that vaporizes in hardship, but the product of our gospel partnership with Christ and His family. Let us press on for the prize of Christ's glory and enjoy (and spread) the delight of His people united with Him.

Second Corinthians 1:3-7

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the *Father of mercies* and *God of all comfort*, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which *we ourselves are comforted by God*. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.

James 5:7-11

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹ Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

Romans 12:1-2

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, *by the mercies of God*, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Galatians 6:17

From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I *bear on my body the marks of Jesus*.

Romans 8:14-17

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" 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 fellow heirs with Christ, *provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him*.