



The God Of Peace Will Be With You

I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Praise be to God through our Lord Jesus Christ for His mercy and love.

Today I want to share with you that what we have learned through our five senses comes to us by the accumulation of information recorded in our memory. This accumulation of information recorded in our brain through our five senses helps us to be the type of person that we are. In our Christian journey we need to use our experiences and the spiritual gifts that we have received from the Lord to help others become more effective in carrying out the church's mission. As a result, we can also learn from others how to do things outside our comfort zone.

Some of us may have received a spiritual gift that made them become more sensitive to the tasks of Christian ministry. Others may develop his or her gifts to their full potential faster than others. However, Paul advises the Christian community at Philippi, the following: *"Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me-put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."* What Paul is asking the church in Philippi is very simple to do! It is very difficult, however, to put your feet in someone else's shoes!

Parents, teachers, pastors or any other leaders should not impose on others to be like them. However, we often like to imitate others' behavior.

Paul wanted to produce a chain reaction, in which he would follow the Lord, then the church in Philippi would follow Paul, and then you and I would be following him just as he followed the Lord Jesus Christ.

What positive examples can we draw from Paul teaching? Paul was a man devoted to prayer, for himself and for others. Paul spent time praying for the people he was writing to. He prayed for wisdom, for knowledge, for power, and for strength. He prayed for courage in doing the service of the Lord. He loved the Lord and was obedient to his call. Paul put Christ as his first priority in his agenda and the church of the Lord, too. He dedicated his entire life to Christian ministry and to Christian study. He collected offerings for the poor, the widows, and people in need. He worked hard to support himself, so he wouldn't become a person who depended on others to support him. He wrote letters for instruction, edification and consolation. He blessed the recipients of those letters.

Paul was an evangelist, a mentor, a teacher, a scholar, an apostle, an itinerant preacher and a pastor to churches and pastors, as well. He loved the church of Jesus and helped them by providing leadership and coaching, so that these churches would develop to their full capacity. He encountered many adversities. He faced many scary times: hunger, cold weather, he suffered persecution, and finally, prison and death. In spite of all these circumstances, for Paul *"to live is Christ, to die is gain."* (Philippians 1:21).

Paul said to the Philippians that whatever they have learned, received, or heard from him, or seen in him...put it into practice. As we read the 13 letters of Paul in the New Testament, we become more familiar with how to live the Christian life, so that we may become more effective in knowing Christ as we study the life of Paul. Through his teaching we can learn how we to live our Christian life in the 21st century.

In 1 Corinthians 11:1 Paul says, *"Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ."* And so, by knowing Paul and following his example, we follow the example of Jesus Christ. We can emulate the example of other servants of the Lord, who have lived a fruitful life in the Lord. This simply means that we should follow Christ like Paul followed Christ.

Finally, Paul says, *"And the God of peace, will be with you."* As you can see, God will be with us every single hour of the day or of the night, if we just follow Him.

Do not try to be somebody else. It is enough for you to be yourself. Enjoy the peace of mind that comes from being you and accomplish what God has planned for you. Paul was a great role model for the Christian community of the first century and he is still a great role model for us today.

God's blessings be upon your lives during these warm days of summer! Amen!

Pastor Rey Diaz