



SERIES: Philippians (May / June) “Finding Joy in the Journey”

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Thursday, May 27, 2021

Scripture: Philippians 2:16-18

TITLE: Don't Fumble

Coach Ron Brown told his players once, “When you run with the football, you tuck it in your arm so no one can swat it away. This is what you need to do with the Word of God. Hold fast to it. Keep it near your heart, so nothing will make you fumble in your faith.”

That analogy is so good that even the Apostle Paul may have used it, if football was a sport 2000 years ago. But here is what Paul did say about holding tight to the Word:

“Hold firmly to the word of life; then, on the day of Christ’s return, I will be proud that I did not run the race in vain and that my work was not useless. ¹⁷ But I will rejoice even if I lose my life, pouring it out like a liquid offering to God, just like your faithful service is an offering to God. And I want all of you to share that joy. ¹⁸ Yes, you should rejoice, and I will share your joy. (Phil. 2:16-18, NLT).

Paul has been talking about living as citizens of Heaven. He has talked about living lives worthy of our calling. And then he says, “Hold firmly to the word of life.” He’s giving us the Ron Brown speech. Daily, go back to the Bible to be fed, encouraged, corrected, and reformed. Hold onto your Bible like you hold onto your phone. If people used their Bibles like their phones, there would be a lot fewer broken homes, broken relationships, broken dreams, and broken promises. At the Center for Bible Engagement, we’ve discovered if a person engages in God’s Word 4 or more times per week, they will see a real difference in how they live. They are holding firm to the Word of Life.

And this thought of his Philippian friends not fumbling their faith brings him great joy. He says, “I will know then that I did not run in vain.” Many of us in ministry, and Christians in general, don’t want to feel like we’ve wasted our time. We can spend our time discipling, teaching, and counseling, only to experience people sinning and rejecting the faith. Paul is saying, stay grounded in the Word. Cling tight to it, so you’re not a casualty of war. Your persistence in the faith will bring about a reason to rejoice.

So here’s my challenge for you today: cling to God’s Word. If you’re listening to this on a podcasting service, or watching on Youtube, download our app goTandem. Our tech will help you identify where you struggle, where you need to grow, and then deliver to you daily biblical verses and content to help you win the day.

God’s Word is a lamp to our feet. God’s Word is a powerful tool - sharper than any two-edged sword. God’s Word is the power; we are not. So let’s cling to the Word and win the day.