

CROWN OF EXULTATION

There is a crown of exultation to be received in time for every Church Age Believer (CAB).

In our lesson text, Paul declared that the Thessalonian believers were his Crown of Exultation (stephanas kauchesis) even though he had only known them three weeks.

He used words of special fellowship regarding new friends in the Lord - "Joy, hope, glory, and a crown of exultation" in our lesson text.

Our lesson will study five aspects of how Christian fellowship becomes a Crown of Exultation in the Christian Way of Life

Let me ask you, "is there anyone in your life today that could be described as your hope, joy, glory, and crown of exultation in Christ?" This is the point of this lesson.

1. We will begin by examining our lesson text by the following three homiletic points.

Separation (1 Thess.2:17) (aporphanizomi/ a.p.ptc.nplm) means to be rendered an orphan (it's a metaphor) describing Paul's feeling of loss, by leaving suddenly when he wanted to stay with his new family in Christ.

Satan (1 Thess.2:18) hindered or thwarted (enkopto/ a.a.ind.3ps). Satan can hinder our plans but cannot hinder God's. (Job 1-2)

Sweet fellowship (1 Thess.2:19-20) "of hope, joy, glory, and a crown of exultation.

- Note the two rhetorical questions.
- A rhetorical parenthesis in a sentence is used to draw special attention to the subject to be gained not to be lost.

2. For Paul, it was towards a whole group of believers who he only had known for three weeks in the Lord.

You ask, "how could that happen?"

There was only one way that could happen so easily and quickly. It was based on both having the same relationship with God, through faith in grace gospel of Jesus Christ (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9).

It brought them together in the same family of their (Abba) Father through adoption (Rom.8:15-17; Heb.12:8) They were no longer an orphan!

You meet believers with whom you immediately bond because you have spiritual growth compatibility IN Christ, because you both are on the same page in the basic doctrines of the Word of God. (2 Pet.3:18).

3. Satan can only hinder the plans of man for his life.

Satan cannot hinder the Plans of God in your life without God signing off on it (Job 1-2) (the test of walking by faith).

In (1 Thess.2:8), Satan hindered Paul (enkopto/ a.a.ind.3ps) [he cut off the main supply route = separation], but it didn't hinder the Plan of God, nor Paul's affections for these believers.

Satan uses obstacles, the scriptures call stumbling blocks, to hinder the operation of Plan of God (Luke 22:31-34; Matt.16:21-23; 1 Cor.1:23; 1 Pet.2:7-8).

My grandmother Homan use to say, "Absence makes the heart grow fonder for someone new or for that someone special in your life."

4. I was reminded of my grandmother's wisdom when I read Paul's description of how he felt in his sudden absence or separation from the Thessalonians believers.

(1 Thess.2:18) "For we wanted to come to you - I, Paul, more than once - and yet satan hindered us."

(1 Thess.2:17) "But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short time - while in person, not in spirit - were all the more eager with great desire to see your face." (whether spiritual not carnal)

Both Paul and the Thessalonian believers had the same spiritual love for one another in the Lord, and His Word (1 Cor.7:39; 9:5; 2 Cor.6:14-16).

They were believers on the same spiritual page in the Christian Way of Life.

Note how this absence was having a positive effect on Paul, regarding his feelings towards his spiritual relationship with these Thessalonians (1 Cor.3:1-3).

5. Respect for relationship should grow in Christ producing fragrant memories in the hearts of spiritually advancing believers.

Paul said that out of sight did not mean out of spirit - "All the more eager with great desire to see your face". (1 Thess.2:17)

Paul is showing that a healthy relationship can withstand absence, but not neglect. He is making contact and working positively on the relationship long distance.

The question to be answered honestly is - "why are we separated and for how long?"

Are your answers reasonable and biblical for the spiritual "hope, joy, glory and crown of exultation of reuniting?"

Can you "hold fast to your confidence and boast of your hope firm until the end?" (Heb.3:6) (God's will)

Stand firm by faith on God's Word and His promises. For It is where you will find your Crown of Exultation.

Remember you are never alone - "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you." (Heb.13:5) Which is God's promise to you.

DO YOU HAVE A CROWN OF EXULTATION?