



The Joy of Spiritual Parenting

PASTOR MIKE YODER • PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you.

Philippians 1:3

In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy

Philippians 1:4

because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now,

being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the Gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me.

Philippians 1:7

God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight,

so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,

Philippians 1:10

*filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through
Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.*



**Spiritual Parents Have Passion
for their Spiritual Children**

It is a terrible thing to feel gratitude and have no one to thank, to feel awe and have no one to worship.

Philip Yancey

This joyful confidence does not deny any of the suffering of human existence. Paul's letter to the Philippians is brutally honest about suffering in Paul's life and in the lives of all believers.

Every urgent request for them includes giving thanks to God for them. Giving thanks to God for his friends fills his heart with joy.

In contrast to happiness, which is rooted in circumstances, joy is a deep-seated confidence and delight in God and His promises that transcends circumstances.

Matthew Harmon

The chains that restricted Paul's power were the means by which the power of the Gospel was released. The suffering of Paul leads to the vindication of the Gospel.

Who do you (regularly) pray for? Do you pray for them with joy? Are there people who come to mind about whom you have immense joy?



**Spiritual Parents Share Partnership
with their Spiritual Children**

The good work in view is the entire work of salvation from beginning to end. God begins a good work in the lives of individuals, but also in the Body of believers corporately as they share fellowship in the Gospel with God and each other.

Mathew Harmon

Believers in Christ are people of the future, a sure future that has already begun in the present. They are “citizens of heaven,” who live the life of heaven, the life of the future, in the present in whatever circumstances they find themselves.

Gordon Fee

From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

**The Gospel is not necessarily hindered by opposition.
Often it is catapulted forward by opposition.**



**Spiritual Parents Raise Prayers
for their Spiritual Children**

May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.

1 Thessalonians 3:12

...so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

The two meanings of righteousness most appropriate can be simply stated as legal (a right legal standing) or ethical (right moral behavior). The context supports an interpretation of righteousness as a definition of the nature of the fruit.

By God's gift of a right relationship in Christ, righteousness from God (3:9), the believer is empowered by Christ Jesus to produce the fruit that consists of righteousness, the self-giving love of Christ.

Confidence in the ultimate transformation of the church by God is the reason why Paul frequently interrupts this letter with outbursts of exuberant joy. Chains and divisions could not take away his joy.

Since the cross was followed by the exaltation of Christ, Paul was convinced that all who shared in the suffering of Christ would also share in the victory of Christ.



Spiritual parents are personally invested in the health and success of their offspring.