

Introduction: What I learned from Kevin McIntire

1. Facing our _____ is both scary and clarifying.
2. Very few things in life _____ very much.
3. **C + P = E**
4. Only an _____ “P” can produce peace and joy when facing death.

Question: How do we choose joy when life is crashing in upon us?

Key #3: _____

Question #3: Where's my hope?

A third lesson from the life of Paul

Paul's perspective facing death = joy

¹⁸Yes, and I will continue to rejoice..."

Philippians 1:18b (NIV)

- **Reason #1:** His deliverance is _____

for I know that this will turn out for my **deliverance**

- *through your prayers and*
- *the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,*

Philippians 1:19 (NASB)

*according to my **earnest expectation and hope,***

that I will not be put to shame in anything,

but that with all boldness,

Christ will (even now, as always), **be exalted in my body, whether**

- *by life*
- *or by death.*

Philippians 1:20 (NASB)

- Reason #2: His source of joy is _____

*For to me, to live is **Christ** and
to die is **gain**.*

Philippians 1:21 (NASB)

But if I am to live on in the flesh,

This will mean fruitful labor for me;

- *and I do not know which to choose.*

Philippians 1:22 (NASB)

But I am hard-pressed from both directions,

- *having the desire to depart and be with Christ,
for that is very much better;*

Philippians 1:23 (NASB)

- *yet to remain on in the flesh
is more necessary for your sake.*

Philippians 1:24 (NASB)

Convinced of this,

I know that I will remain and continue with you all

*For **your progress and joy in the faith,***

Philippians 1:25 (NASB)

*so that your proud confidence in me may abound
in Christ Jesus*

through my coming to you again.

Philippians 1:26 (NASB)

Paul's secret: "vantage point"

"Vantage" = a) A position or situation more advantageous than an opponent's.

b) A position that allows a clear, broad view; understanding

– i.e. vantage point (Cross reference – 2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

Discussion Questions:

1. When was the last time you seriously contemplated your mortality?
2. What is the difference between “hope” as we use it in English and the biblical concept of “hope”?
3. What two reasons (Philippians 1:19-20) gave Paul such hope and confidence? What’s the difference between being “delivered out of” our circumstances and being “delivered through them”?
4. Where do you need “hope” in your life right now? In what or whom are you hoping in today?
5. What “next step” do you need to take to place your hope fully in Christ? Who could help you take that step?