

## THRIVING IN DESOLATE PLACES

*The Essentials*

Sunday, April 29, 2007 – 5:00 pm

### 1. Realize the GRACE and PEACE of God

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
Philippians 1:1-2

- Grace is GOD'S FAVOR
- Peace is confidence in God in the midst of turmoil

### 2. MAKE prayer and thanksgiving your first IMPERATIVE; not your last cry for help!

- Philippians 1:3-11
- Prayer is a LIFESTYLE; not a thing we do before every meal!

### 3. Choose to be COURAGEOUS

- Philippians 1:12-30

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.  
Joshua 1:9

### 4. Imitate the HUMILITY OF CHRIST

- Philippians 2:1-11

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.  
Ephesians 4:2

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.  
James 4:10

... clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.' Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.  
1 Peter 5:5-6

**5. Do everything WITHOUT COMPLAINING**

Philippians 2:12-18

**6. Realize that people are A GIFT FROM GOD**

- Philippians 2:19-30

**7. Believe in GOD and HIS abilities**

- Philippians 3:1-11
- Luke 1:37
- Impossible is nothing, with God!

**8. Keep on keeping on; PERSEVERE!**

- Philippians 3:12-21

Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

Romans 5:3-5

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

Hebrews 12:1

...you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.  
James 1:3

...make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.  
2 Peter 1:5-7

**9. Keep the peace; strive for UNITY**

- Philippians 4:1-9

How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!  
Psalm 133:1

**10. Choose GRATITUDE regardless of the outward circumstances**

- Philippians 4:10-23