

12th Grade Devotional 1



Read Philippians 1:3-11

As Paul is writing his letter to the church at Philippi, he expresses great joy and a special place in his heart for them. With Paul being far away in prison, you would almost think he was a little homesick for the place. However, when Paul first visited Philippi, things didn't feel so joyous. Paul was scourged and thrown into the stocks for preaching the gospel and saw little of the fruits of his labor. But somehow, he remembers the church at Philippi with great joy!

Have you ever heard a mother talk about what giving birth is like? It's not an easy thing. And yet the thing you'll hear most is what a joyous occasion it was. You were worth it! Paul looks at his sufferings in Philippi with joy because he was suffering for Christ, and through his labors God moved in a mighty way among the Philippians. Paul is excited because he is writing to fellow believers, brothers, and sisters in Christ. They are his peers now. He'll always be there to pray for them and support them but he's encouraged by their love for the Lord and the growth that they have experienced in his absence.

Your parents find joy in the man or woman you have grown into. Even though they will not always be with you they will continue to pray and support you. The fruits of their labor as parents have been fulfilled in you. Paul wasn't leaving the Philippians all alone, just like your parents aren't leaving you. But it is a great comfort to see that you are continuing to grow on your own.

It's important to note that the Philippians continued to grow in their relationship with the Lord even when Paul wasn't there. You are fast approaching the time that you will be away from your parents more than you are with them. It is your responsibility to continue growing in your love and understanding for the Lord on your own.

It's never too early to begin to think and pray about how you are going to challenge yourself to grow spiritually when you move away from home. If you are moving away for school or work, pray and begin to search for a church and a group of peers that will support you and help hold you accountable.

Parents:

Talk with your son or daughter about the feelings you have as you see them grow into manhood or womanhood. Pray with them and encourage them that even though your relationship is changing, you will always be there when they need you.