

# RESILIENT



## DEEP FAITHFULNESS

Philippians 2:19 – 30

Pastor Daniel Hahn

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## MESSAGE NOTES

Within the community of believers ...

1. Faithfulness begins with a longing to honor God, even when it's costly. (2:19 – 24)
2. Faithfulness involves a shift in what occupies our attention, from self to others. (2:25)

*Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.* — Galatians 6:2

*When the oak tree is felled, the whole forest echoes with it; but a hundred acorns are planted silently by some unnoticed breeze.* — Thomas Carlyle, *On History*

3. Faithfulness is crucial because God has entrusted each of us with Kingdom work. (2:26 – 30)

*The Spirit assigns everyone a responsibility in the church, and in so doing the Spirit takes us away from our selfishness and individual life and makes us bigger. We flourish in the big work of God in this world. How does the Spirit make us bigger? By assigning us a gift in the big, cosmic mission of God. Through the Spirit's gifts, we become participants, actors on the divine stage, people gifted by God with an assignment and responsibility in the church of God. What we learn from the gifts is that God gives to us a gift, but He gives everyone else a gift too, so that we need one another if the body of Christ is to function well.* — Scott McKnight, *A Fellowship of Differents*

Three crucial questions as we put all this into practice:

1. What am I doing to cultivate some genuine spiritual friendships?
2. What influence am I having by sacrificing, serving, leading, or mentoring others?
3. How am I both carrying others' burdens and allowing others to carry mine?

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What do you recall from ENCOUNTER this weekend?
- Based on Philippians 2:19 – 33, why is Paul able to speak so highly of his friend Timothy? What can we learn from Timothy's example?
- How does Timothy "prove" himself? By contrast, how does our culture often define "proving" one's self?
- From this passage, how would you describe the quality of spiritual maturity?
- From what you learn in this passage, how would you describe Paul's companion named Epaphroditus? Whose interests are his first concern?
- What nearly cost Epaphroditus his life?
- Considering what Paul told the people to do in reference to Epaphroditus, how can we practice honoring those who serve us in the body of Christ?
- Daniel asked us to consider three questions. How would you answer these?
  1. What am I doing to cultivate encouraging and accountable spiritual friendships?
  2. What influence am I having by sacrificing, serving, leading, or mentoring others?
  3. How am I both carrying others' burdens and allowing others to carry mine?
- What practical steps could you take this week to follow the examples of Timothy and Epaphroditus?