

Personal Application and Group Interaction:

How have you been moved by a challenging account from our missionaries?

When have your painful experiences been used to give you a hearing for the gospel?

Paul said, *"It has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ"* (NIV), *"...my chains are in Christ"* (NKJV). What might the difference in this rendering make to your understanding? How do the people in your sphere of influence understand your commitment to the gospel?

What do you typically say to clarify the gospel? Describe how you've been received when you've shared your faith in Christ.

How does fear figure in when you tell people about the hope that is found in the death and resurrection of Jesus? How might you be impacted by the account of those who have suffered persecution for the sake of the gospel?

How was your heart impacted by a) the account of the 5 young missionaries or, 2) the clip of a soldier who was paralyzed by fear?



What do we have to lose?

Philippians 1:12-14

Pastor John
October 6, 2013

The gospel changes lives. It's had that impact across time, cultures and against overwhelming odds. Paul penned the words of our text from prison. Far from a Pollyannaish optimism, he pulled no punches. He wrote to encourage God's people to fearlessly proclaim the gospel. While some of his critics might have used his imprisonment to gain an upper hand over his influence, his commitment to the gospel was being used of God to change lives for all eternity.

Are we clear on the gospel?

Are we all about the gospel?

Pain and persecution for Christ's sake: Rx for fearful people?