

MESSAGE TRANSCRIPT //

WHEN OPPOSITION COMES | REBEL'S GUIDE TO JOY

RYAN BRAMLETT | FEBRUARY 19, 2023

Traders Point, how are we doing? Hey, so good to be with you today.

And before we get rolling in the message, I want to take a moment and just give you guys a little bit of an update to celebrate with you in regard to our FAM ministry. Some of you guys know what this is. Our FAM is our foster and adoption ministry. And God has been all over this ministry. It's been exploding over the past few years.

Here's what we do. In this ministry we exist to meet the needs, to serve vulnerable children. And we've been able to do that. One of the ways that we do that is through our Resource Center. Here's what that is. We provide items, whether to DCS or to families who are trying to keep their families together—we give them items at no expense. That's one of the ways that we serve them.

And we've seen this ministry just grow and grow. For example, our first year with the Resource Center we gave out 500 items, 500 items—900 items, I think. I may not have been right about that—900 items. Either way, this past year, we were able to give out 5,500 items. And to me this really speaks to what our lead pastor, Pastor Aaron says. We want to be a blessing to this city, not just for the people who attend our church but for all people in our city in our state. This is one of the ways that we do that.

And all of this growth—that only happens because of your generosity, rallying around it—and it's brought us into a new problem that we have. One, there wasn't enough space. So, this past week we were able to move to a new spot here at the Northwest campus, doubled our square footage, so that we can serve more families in the year to come.

And this is what I want to put on you, though. Right now. This is the kind of church that we want to be. We've got double the space, which means we have room for more items to serve more families. You can go to this link behind me, find our Amazon wish list—let's pack this new Resource Center out. You guys with us on that? Come on.

Love it.

Well, today we're continuing in our series *A Rebel's Guide to Joy*. We've been kind of working through, studying through this small book of Philippians. And the author of it, his name is Paul. And really, what kind of mesmerizes me, what we focus on every



single time is this guy's joy. Over and over and over again in this short letter he talks about the joy that he has.

Now, here's the thing. He's in prison. He's in the worst circumstances possible. He's facing possible execution. And yet he's joyful. And what we've said is that there is something there, there is a guide for us to find joy. Because for a lot of us, joy seems to elude us even under the best of circumstances.

And maybe you've felt this. I feel like I meet with a lot of people and they are joyless. Not depressed but just kind of meh. You know? Everything is a little foggy. And I get it. It's been a wild few years, and that has expedited a lot of things.

But I'll also say that there has been some beauty in it as well. Because there have been people over the past season who have come to church for the very first time, who have given their lives to Jesus. And what were they in search of? They were in search of:

JOY

Joy—happiness, but they got joy. Right?

That's how I got here. That's how so many of us got here—in this search in this longing, this ache. It's what Tolkien refers to as: "Joy beyond the walls of the world, poignant as grief."

And what we've been doing in this series is saying, "Hey, the framework that the world is providing, the framework that world is saying will bring us joy is failing. So, what we're doing is going beyond the walls of the world to this joy that can only be found in Jesus. That's what we've been doing week in and week out.

If you were here last week Paul had this incredible line where he says:

"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." Philippians 1:21 (NIV)

That's a powerful line and we talked all about that tension last week of what it looks like. And then this week he's really going to double-click on that word on what it means to live. He said, "I'm torn between these two desires. I could die and go be with Christ." But he said, "It's better for you that I stay. So, I'm going to continue to live." And this week we're going to see what it means to live in light of the gospel.

If you have your Bibles you can flip to Philippians, chapter 1. We're going to start in verse 27 today. He says:

“Above all,” the most important thing, “you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ.”

And I just want to pause right there. “Above all else, I want you to live as citizens of heaven.” And it’s important to note that citizenship was a really big deal for people back then, especially for the Philippians because they were Roman citizens. This was the best citizenship that you could have in the known world. It brought with it all kinds of privileges and rights. That was a part of their identity. That’s who they were.

And Paul reminds them, “I know what you have and that’s good that you have it, but above that I need you to know that you are citizens of heaven now. Because of the gospel of Jesus, you now have this new citizenship that you are going to live into. Just as your Roman citizenship brought these things, so your heavenly citizenship will bring you things.

Here's what he is really pushing on. It has to be more than words. Don't just confess Jesus but then really live as every other Roman citizen. It's more that words that you are pledging.

When I was reading this it made me think about when my daughter, my oldest, was young. She was maybe two or three years old. And you know you just get in long car rides and kids get fussy and cranky and you just start trying stuff. You're like, “I need to do something. I don't know what to do.” I'm already writing an apology letter to her when she gets older because we tried some stuff. You know what I mean? Some worked. Some didn't.

But one day she was in the back, she was whining, she was crying and I just got this idea out of nowhere like, “I'm going to teach her the Pledge of Allegiance. She's like two years old. But she buys in on it. And we continued to do this on long car rides. One, because it kept her busy. Two, it was hilarious to hear her try and pronounce the words in the Pledge of Allegiance. It was amazing.

Maybe your life was like mine. The school that you went to every day you showed up from Kindergarten to 12th grade and you stood at the beginning of the day and placed your hand over your heart and you said the Pledge of Allegiance. You memorized it. You can't get it out of your head right now. It's one of the only things that stuck in there. Right?

I memorized it, but it's not like the pledge really shaped how I lived. You know what I mean? It's like I never remember once being in high school and about to cheat on a test and someone was like, “Whoa, whoa, whoa. Don't. Remember the pledge.” Or I was about to get into a fight and they were like, “No, no, no, no. Do not handle yourself like

that. Do you not remember the pledge?" No it was just something that I said that I really didn't think too much about.

And I'll tell you what convicted me this week, and I'm going to share that conviction with you, at times my faith can feel like that. I come in here on a Sunday and I stand and I place my hand over my heart or my hand in the air and pledge all of these things to Jesus but my life doesn't reflect the things that I am saying are most important.

Pledge allegiance to King Jesus.

Here's what Paul is getting to. He said, "Hey, I want you to pledge allegiance. But I want you to pledge allegiance to King Jesus. I want your heavenly citizenship to be the most important thing. And it's more than just words. But because of this citizenship that you have, because of the pledge that you've taken the kingdom you've entered into should totally and radically shape every single day, every single interaction that you have. It should be shaped by, 'I pledge allegiance to King Jesus.'"

Now because that's true, what is this situation asking of me? That's what he speaks on in this next part. Because you are citizens, he says:

Conduct "... *yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ.*" Philippians 1:27 (NLT)

Conduct yourselves in a manner that is worthy. And that word *worthy* the picture that you get from this word is really *scales*. Right? You've seen this where you place something on one side and you're hoping that the other side evens out.

We kind of interact with stuff like this all of the time. For example, you go to work and you work and maybe every week or every two weeks you get payment. And what your job is saying is because of your title, because of your work on this side, it is worthy of this payment. And some of you are like, "I think the scales at my job are broken." Right? "It's not evening out."

Here's another thing. When we give someone an award we would say, "Hey, here's the award on this side. And then you look at this person's life or character and you are saying, "Is it fitting that he would receive this award?" And if so, he gets it.

You know, for us, we have something here with our staff called the Sheri El Award.

The SHERI EL Award: Passionate, prayerful, caring, encouraging, uplifting, compassionate, loyal, resilient, discerning, fearless, courageous, culturally intelligent



And some of you know Sheri El. She is just a true woman of God. She and the whole El family came to Traders Point a long time ago, before diversity was really a thing. And she and her family really trail-blazed the way. They started serving like crazy. She even stepped away from her very successful career in the marketplace and came into full-time ministry. She served faithfully for 20 years in missions and care and benevolence.

She recently just retired after 20 years of faithful service. And we awarded her the Sheri El Award. And now every year someone gets nominated for this award. And what we do is we look at Sheri's life, her legacy. All of the things she was known for. All of these characteristics. And then we look at someone on our team and say, "Is it fitting? Is this person passionate? Is this person prayerful and caring and loyal and culturally intelligent? And then he or she receives that award.

And what I want us to do right now, before we move forward, can we just take a moment to celebrate and to honor Ms. Sheri? Some of you guys know her. Others of you don't. But all of us have been impacted by her life and ministry here.

And what Paul is going to do now is the same thing we just looked at with the Sheri El Award. He's going to say, "Because on this side the gospel is true, because the Good News of Jesus is true, there should be something on this other side that is fitting.

Just like all of those things were true about Sheri, we're looking to see them in somebody else. He says, "Because of the gospel is true, when somebody looks at your life they should be able to see some things. It should be evident to them that you have met with the unconditional love of God." When they look at your life in light of the gospel, it can only make sense because of the grace of God. The way that you forgive. The way that you serve others, it only makes sense just because of what's on the other side of that scale.

And that's what he's going to give us in these next few verses. He's just going to say, "Here's some characteristics, here's what it looks like to live a life that is worthy of the gospel. Here's what it means to be a citizen of heaven. Take a look at this continuing in verse 27. He says:

"Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing together with one spirit and one purpose, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News.

"Don't be intimidated in any way by your enemies. This will be a sign to them that they are going to be destroyed, but that you are going to be saved, even by God himself."

This is important because a lot of times the belief in this culture was if something bad happened to you, if you were facing opposition, it meant that you had done something wrong. But Paul is reminding them here that just because they were experiencing something... He's taking them back to Jesus' words on the Sermon on the Mount. He says, "Blessed are those who are persecuted." He says:

"For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him. We are in this struggle together. You have seen my struggle in the past, and you know that I am still in the midst of it." Philippians 1:27-30 (NLT)

LIFE WORTHY OF THE GOSPEL

So what I want us to do now is really just to look at those few verses and to pull out a few things. To say, "If we are going to live a life worthy of the gospel, what's going to show up on this side?" I think the first thing we would see is that we should be:

UNIFYING

We should be standing together. We should be:

BRAVE

We should be brave. And then here's the third one, it's a whammy. We should be able to:

SUFFER WELL

Because of the Good News of Jesus all of these things should be evident; they should be showing up in our lives. So let's just go through each one of these one by one and just kind of say, "What does this look like for me and you this week? What is this call on our lives?" And the first one is that we are called to be:

UNIFYING

Take a look at the Scripture again. He says:

"Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are," say it with me, "standing together with one spirit and one purpose, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News. Philippians 1:27b (NLT)

He says, "I want you to be standing together, one spirit, one mind, one heart—in this thing together." Now this is Paul's call to us here, but it's really just a continuation of

Jesus' prayer for me and for you. You remember this? God prayed for me and you. And look at what He prayed for in John 17. He said:

"May they experience," me and you, "such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me." John 17:23 (NLT)

Think about that. As Jesus was going, praying to God, He said, "Hey, I want them to have such unity, such unity that it will cause the world to stop and to stare. It will be such a strong unity that the world has never seen before. That the only explanation that they will have for it is: they must have been touched by God. There must be some good news behind them. There must be something bigger that is pulling them all together like this.

Now, I want you to think about today. Think about the message you hear of why people don't want to come to church, why people don't give Jesus even a chance. It's because of disunity. It's because of the divisiveness. It's what I would call:

The Christian Civil War

I want you to think about this for a second. If God refers to what He is doing here as a kingdom, as a place, would you ever move to a country that was experiencing, that was in the midst of a civil war? No. So that's what this call is here for me and you. Because the gospel is true, we should be united as one.

I saw this phrase this week as I was studying and it really stuck with me. It's this call for:

SPIRITUAL SOLIDARITY

Me and you, all of us in the church, all of us who have placed our faith in Jesus, are also now gathered together as a body, as brothers and sisters. We should have spiritual solidarity.

This was from the beginning. If you remember Pentecost, this is the day that the Spirit of God fell among the people. All of these people have traveled from all of these different countries, all of this different citizenship among them, but they get this one thing, the Spirit of God, that allows them to hear the gospel and it unified them as one. And then they go from there and they begin to bring the church into the world.

I love that picture that he gives us. We should be standing together, shoulder to shoulder. Do you know why that's so important? Do you know how hard it is to fight someone that you are standing shoulder to shoulder with? It doesn't work.



And this is the call that Paul is giving, “I want you to stand shoulder to shoulder.” Some believe that he was actually making reference to this Roman military formation where the strength of the soldiers—they would be standing together shield to shield—and their strength wasn’t just in how amazing they were, but their strength was in this line, this crew of solidarity would move forward.

That’s the picture we should have of the church. This beautiful picture of unity. Divisiveness will push them away. Unity is what is going to pull this watching world closer in so that they can come to know Jesus.

There is this beautiful show of unity that is happening right now. Maybe you guys have heard about what is going on at Asbury College, the revival that is breaking out. Continuous worship is what it is. And what’s amazing about it, we’ve had some pastors who have made the trip just to be there, just to see what God is doing and they said it’s beautiful. It’s just worshipful. And here’s the thing, it’s brought together people from all kinds of different religious groups, all kinds of ethnicities, everyone coming together in this shared space shoulder to shoulder and they walk away uplifted.

And as the world is seeing this it’s bringing more and more people to it and more people are being baptized more people are giving their life to Jesus. You see the power of unity and worship.

So I just want to ask you today, is there anyone you don’t have unity with? Specifically within the church. It could be a personal relationship that you have with someone who is lacking unity. It could be something big. It’s like you don’t have unity with people who maybe believe something different theologically. It could be as big and as dark as something as racism.

I just want to challenge you that, in light of the gospel, the call is that we would all be united, even though there are a million things that could separate us and divide us, there is this citizenship in heaven, there is this spiritual solidarity that brings us all together. It’s a call to be unified.

The second one, the first one says, “I want you to be unified,” the second one is be:

BRAVE

He says:

“Don’t be intimidated in any way by your enemies.” Philippians 1:28 (NLT)



Don't be intimidated by any of your enemies. Now, I love the NLT. It is pretty much the only one that translates this phrase *don't be intimidated*. Most translations say: Don't be afraid. Don't be terrified.

And the word picture that you have behind this phrase is of a horse that is kind of jumpy. It gets spooked and begins to do all kinds of crazy things.

Now, you can probably look at me and tell that I don't fool much with horses for many reasons. One, like I said, I'm not a veterinarian, I don't know how much they weigh, 10,000 pounds. I don't know. They are giant animals.

But have you've ever seen one of them trotting along and then it could see something as small as a rabbit or a dog or a mouse—it gets spooked. It begins to buck and run and jump and throw who is ever on the back of it off. All I'm saying is, "No, no. That won't be me."

Even though its default response to things that terrify it is to move away, a horse can be trained to be a war horse. And to go in the midst of it. I'm placing that same calling on you. Don't be intimidated by anything that comes your way.

Here's the thing that is true about bravery. I feel like a lot of times we talk about bravery and then we want this big moment, this moment to stand in bravery and say, "When that moment comes I'm going to be brave for it. In that moment I will be brave." And we wait for that like news worthy, giant moment; we're waiting for it and waiting for it. Like that Rosa Parks moment, "When that situation comes, I'm going to be strong, I'm going to be brave."

Now, bravery does cover those moments but bravery is so much greater and so much smaller at the same time. It touches much more than I think we would like to admit. I love the way author Maya Angelou talks about bravery. She says:

"Without courage, we cannot practice any other virtue with consistency. We can't be kind, true, merciful, generous, or honest."

I want you to think about that. If there is this call to unity, this call to be united, then we are going to need to be brave and tell the truth. We are going to need to be brave so that we can step into tough conversations. We are going to need to be brave so that we can bring peace to situations. And we will never be generous without bravery. All of the things, all of the virtues that we look to, behind them, foundational to them, is bravery.

So I just want to ask you today, if you're taking notes:

What are you intimidated by?

What are you intimidated by in this season? You think about it often. It could be a person, it could be the type of situation you are in, it could be finances, it could be just the skeptical nature of your workplace or your school. It could be cynicism. There is something that is intimidating you from truly living as a citizen of heaven. What is that thing? You got it? What do you do with it? What do you do with it?

That's why I love the study through the Scriptures. There is this book in the Bible called Acts and it's the acts of the apostles, really the acts of the Holy Spirit as the church is getting off of the ground. And what you see in these pages are the most brave individuals, the most brave men and women.

Over and over again they do things that are just like, "I want to be like that." How? I mean, they would be standing there bloody, beaten, eyes swollen, lips busted and the people would be like, "You are never going to say the name of Jesus again or you will die." And they would be like, "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus." And they would stand in front of the most important, the biggest, the most powerful and they would say, "We can't, we can't stop speaking the name of Jesus."

That's on one side. But what I saw on the other side as I was reading was this wild thing that they were constantly in prayer and they were praying for something. Specifically they kept praying for boldness. They kept praying for courage. And when I first read it I was like, "I feel like them praying for boldness is like Shaq praying for height. I think you've got enough of it. Save some for the rest of us." You know?

But what I was learning was that they were brave but they were only brave because of the Spirit of God that was in them. They were only brave because of the perspective that they had. And they knew that they were being carried through this with a bigger purpose and a bigger perspective. They knew what their citizenship held. So over and over and over again they were brave.

And I don't know about you, but I was thinking about my prayer life this week and a lot of times the things that come into my life that I get intimidated by, that I get frightened by, I pray for them but a lot of times my prayer is, "God, remove the thing that is frightening me. Remove the thing that I'm afraid of."

What was challenging me this week was like, "What is influencing that prayer? Which one of my citizenships?" Because to be removed from pain, to be removed from trials, to be brought in on pleasure, that sounds like a prayer that is influenced by my citizenship in America. But what would my citizenship in heaven look like? What kind of prayers would that bring forth?

It reminds me of what James said when he was talking about our prayers and why we don't get what we want. He said:

"Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it." One. Then two: "And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure." James 4:2b-3 (NLT)

And I thought about that for a good long time. Is that what I'm asking? Pleasure? And I think as much as we want a God of pleasure, we seem to have a God of holiness. He wants us to have joy but it doesn't mean that it is going to be in the absence of needing bravery. It's not going to be in the absence of hard things.

And it really brought me back to this message of Scripture that is seen over and over again. God's people cry out to Him, but what He does over and over again is not remove them from the situation. He has this very specific phrase that He gives His people. It becomes like an anthem. Every time they would face opposition, this would be the banner over it all. What was it? It was: Be strong and courageous. Be strong and courageous. Why? For the Lord your God is with you.

That's this call that we are going to be brave because of what our citizenship comes with. And it comes with the fact that we don't go anywhere without our King. So we will stand and we will be brave, which we're going to need because of this third point. He says to live a life worthy of the gospel on this side, we're going to be unified, we're going to be brave, and we're going to:

SUFFER WELL

Look at what he says. He says:

"For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him. We are in this struggle together." Philippians 1:29-30a (NLT)

Suffering is coming.

Some of you have been with me this whole time. You were like, "Man, this is great: unifying, united—get in. Brave. Would love to be more brave—count it." And then you get to this one and you're like, "Suffering is a gift? I'm going to need a gift receipt for this one. I'm going to be taking this one back. No, no. I'm good. I'll keep the unity, keep the bravery, You keep the suffering."

I want you to think about how much of our lives are kind of set up around that idea to avoid suffering. A lot of the books, resources, ways to go within the walls of the world are how to avoid suffering. But here's the thing that Christianity is very honest about. It's this. Suffering is coming. And it's not a call to run from it, it's a call to be brave and to withstand it. To be strong and courageous. Something is coming. There is no way to avoid it.

I mean, we can be wise. We can do everything that we can to not trip over ourselves. But even a great and perfect life does not mean that we will have a life without suffering. Exhibit "A", Jesus. He lived a perfect life. Faced the most suffering ever.

But here's the thing. Here's the perspective shift that we have as citizens of heaven. It's that every bit of pain that we experience, all of the suffering that we go through, it's not in vain. It's with a purpose.

One of the best illustrations I feel like the Bible gives for why we go through suffering and what it can do and the perspective we can have is the birth of a baby. Right? Think about that. The birth of a baby is excruciating. There is so much pain for very long periods of time—labor going 12, 24, 36, 48 hours through all of that suffering. But at the end you get this beautiful baby and it's like, "Oh, it was worth it."

I mean think about this. All of the suffering that goes through the process of having a baby. The husband trying to sleep on these tiny couches. There is never a good time to bring it up so I thought now would be a good time, because you can't say it when she's, you know, giving birth. But guys, do better with the couches.

But here's what I think Paul is trying to raise our perspective to. Just like whenever you are going through a situation like the birth of a baby, it's easy to see that all of the suffering is worth it. It gave birth to something beautiful. Even when the gift of suffering is not obvious to us, we can trust that God is using this pain in our lives to give birth to something good and beautiful.

So much of our life is spent thinking that when we experience pain and when we experience something bad, that nothing good could possibly come from it. But I think it takes a lot of pride to say something like that. To be able to say that just because we can't see it in the moment, that God can't do something with it.

I'm not saying what happened was good or beautiful. But what God is saying is the because of who He is, He can actually use the worst suffering that we will ever experience and birth something good and beautiful if we will allow it. We could even be in the midst of suffering and we can have joy—not when it's over, but in the midst of it.



That's what the first followers of Jesus had. Look at this in Acts, chapter 5. It says:

"The apostles left the high council rejoicing that God had counted them worthy to suffer disgrace for the name of Jesus." Acts 5:41 (NLT)

Think about that. They'd just been beaten. They'd just been humiliated. They tried to strip everything from them. And they walked away with a limp, but they had joy. And they counted themselves what was the word? *Worthy*, to suffer for the gospel.

So what I want to put before you—and this is a question I want you to wrestle with not only for the remainder of our time here, but this week. In your prayer life. In your group time:

Who do you become when opposition comes?

Who do you become when opposition comes? Which part of your citizenship gets highlighted? When that comes do you look more like a citizen of heaven or a citizen of this world? When opposition comes do you become a little divisive or are you unifying even in the midst of it? When opposition comes do you stand and are you brave? Or are you terrified and run away? When suffering comes, do you have the right perspective? Do you suffer well? Who do you become when opposition comes?

And I want to give you the reason that you can go through all three of these things and to:

LIFE WORTHY OF THE GOSPEL

It is because and only because of Jesus Christ. He has modeled it. He has empowered it. I want you to think about this. A life worthy of the gospel. Now look at the life of Jesus.

UNIFYING

Was His not the most unifying life? He came and He brought all people together. The people who people were afraid to touch or speak to, He brought them into the fold. He died for not just a group of people, but for the whole world.

BRAVE

His life was one act of bravery after another. He stood up against political leaders and religious leaders. He was brave for Himself. He was brave for others. He was brave in the big moments and the little moments.



SUFFER WELL

And he suffered well. He went to a cross. For the joy set before Him he went to that cross and He died for me and you. He resurrected, defeating the power of sin and death that was holding all of us captive, it was keeping us all terrified; it was making us all cowards. Now you have every reason to be strong and courageous. Why? Because the same power, the same Spirit that rose Christ from the grave is in you.

So what we're asking is that God would do a unifying work in our hearts. That God would make us people who are brave and strong and courageous. That God would give us...Through the same Spirit that allowed Jesus to endure so much, that He would lavish that same Spirit on us so that we could suffer well for the name of Jesus.

The way we want to close this out today is to just take a moment to take communion. Here's what communion is. It's just a moment, a moment in time we gather together, shoulder to shoulder, where we remember all that Jesus has done and in light of the gospel, the life that we have been called to live because of the communion we have with Him.

So as you open up the elements, I just want to encourage you to take the piece of bread, which represents Jesus' body. I want you to think about this verse in I Peter. He says:

"He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed." 1 Peter 2:24 (NLT)

Take the piece of bread which represents the body of Jesus, broken for you.

Now, flip it over and take the juice which represents the blood of Jesus that was spilled for me and you that paid for the penalty that we owe, that removed all of our sins and allowed us to come and be citizens of heaven, family with God, sons and daughters. And because of this blood we now have the same Spirit, the spiritual solidarity within all of us. So at this time take the juice that represents the blood of Jesus.

Now I want you to join us in prayer if you would.

Father, we come before You this morning and, God, we thank You, we thank You for the lives that are possible because of the gospel. God, because of who You are, because of what You have done, because of Your Spirit what a life, what a life that we can live. A life of unity. A life of bravery. A life that even in the worst spaces through horrendous suffering, God, even then joy doesn't elude us.



So, Father, in the name of Jesus we pray that we would be unified as one body. Under the name of Jesus we pray that we would be strong and courageous. In the name of Jesus allow us to go and to endure and to remember that even in the midst of it, you are birthing something good and beautiful.

Jesus, You are enough. We love You. It's in Your perfect name we pray. Amen.

