

Think back to when you were a kid (if you still are, then think about today). I am sure there was a time (or two) when you wanted something so bad you would have given anything to get it. Maybe it was that bicycle, or a baseball mitt, or a trip to your favorite place. Whatever it might be, remember what you would have done to get that special thing? For me, it was a trip to the Go Kart track. Riding go carts as a kid was one of the things I would have given almost anything for. This was the one place where I was almost equal to my brothers and my dad. Being the youngest, whenever we did something athletically as a family it seemed that I would always be beaten because of my size. But, on a go cart track, the playing field was leveled. All I needed was car #24 and no one could stop me! While my memory is probably a little biased, I can remember running circles around my two older brothers and my dad. They didn't stand a chance!

Like I said before, as a kid, I would do anything to have that feeling. No matter what it took, I was willing to pay the price to earn a trip to that Go Kart track. I would have cleaned my room, my brothers rooms, the bathroom and the entire house if I had to. I wanted to drive the Go Karts. I needed to drive the Go Karts. Go Karts were my passion. Go Karts brought me joy. It was that simple.

This passage gives us a glimpse of Paul's passion and joy. We see clearly that Paul was willing to give anything, (even death!) for this passion. I feel challenged by Paul's life. It makes me ask some important questions. Questions like, what do I live for? Even more importantly, what would I *die* for? These questions are so easily asked but not so easily answered. I challenge you to ask them again. For what one thing would you give anything for, even your life? Are you living that way?

Read Philippians 1:12-26

- ✧ When Paul says "what has happened to me," of what is he speaking?. (See verses: 7, 14)

- ✧ According to verses 12-13, what was the result of this seemingly negative encounter?

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 - Can you think of any negative things in your life that can serve this same purpose?

- ✧ According to verse 14, what effect did Paul's situation have on the faith of other believers?
 - With this in mind, why is it important to share with others in your Christian community what God is doing in your life?

- ✧ According to verse 16, why is Paul on this earth?
 - For what purpose do you think God has put you in this earth?

- ✧ According to verse 18, what is important to Paul? What brings him joy?
 - Why don't you think it mattered that the gospel was preached with wrong motives?

- ✧ How does verse 19 show Paul's positive outlook in life and his faith in a sovereign God?

- ✧ According to verse 20, to what extent is Paul willing to go to carry out his calling?