

SERIES OVERVIEW

Philippi was an ancient city in Northern Greece that, in its day, was a bustling metropolitan city with a strong industrial base and a great economy. Paul visited there around 50 A.D. and founded the first church in Europe there. In the book of Philippians in the New Testament, Paul is writing to this church from prison ten years later. If Paul had a favorite church, this might have been it. And as we study this letter to the church at Philippi, you will find out why. This church was overflowing with joy, and there is a lot we can learn about to live our lives joyfully as we read Paul's words to the Philippians. In this series, we are going to take a closer look at Paul's words of encouragement to this church, and in doing so, I believe we will be encouraged as well to find joy, capture joy, and spread joy as we follow Christ.

SERIES VERSES

Philippians 1:1-6

Philippians 1:21-23

Philippians 2:1-4

Philippians 3:7-11

Philippians 3:12-14

Philippians 4:4-7

Philippians 4:10-19

PART 1: Church Wanted

Philippians 1:1-6

OVERVIEW	NOTES
The Apostle Paul wrote thirteen books of the New Testament. All of them were letters. Of the thirteen letters, eleven of them were written to seven different churches. Philippians is the only letter that we have in the New Testament where Paul never one time corrects bad teaching, rebukes bad behavior, or handled a bad situation. We see only a completely positive letter to a church he wrote. This was a church that was full of joy. It was a church that gave joy to the pastor that founded it and gave joy to the people who attended it. Nineteen times you will find in this book the words "rejoice, joy, and gladness." When you read this book you realize this is what a church should look like on the inside to the people who attend it, but it is also what a church ought to look like from the outside to people who don't attend it. I want to share with you today the three things that are true about that church that I want to be true about the church today, both to insiders and to outsiders. I want to be a church wanted.	
KEY POINTS	
1. Grateful When They Think About Us Paul is talking to two groups of people that actually make up every church that has ever been and ever will be and those are Jews and Gentiles. Whether you realize it or not, everybody is one or the other. If you are a Jew, you are not a Gentile; if you are a Gentile you are not a Jew. I know there were Jews and Gentiles here, because of the greeting that Paul gives. Grace was a greeting you would give to a Gentile.	
Peace-Shalom was a greeting you would give to a Jew. You are going to see this was a very diverse church and the fact it was a church full of joy that evidently had very few real difficult problems was even more amazing! But the next statement that Paul makes tells volumes about Paul's love for this church and the equality of this church. "Every time I remember you, I thank God for you." It is very rare that anybody has great memories about anybody always. Yet, Paul said "Every single time I remember you I thank God for you." That is what I want people today to say about the church - those who attend church and those who don't, those that know about church and those who just hear about church. I want them to be grateful when they think about us.	
2. Joyful When They Talk About Us Every time Paul prayed for this church and talked to God about this church it was always with a smile on his face and joy in his heart. Keep in mind that Paul is writing from a prison. You need to understand the kind of joy that Paul was talking about. It isn't even the kind of joy that most people think about. For Paul, there were not a lot of beautiful days, but every time he thought about this church, his day was filled with beautiful joy. My prayer is that people would speak about the church today with that same joy that Paul	

had when he wrote this letter to the Philippians.

PART 1: Church Wanted

Philippians 1:1-6

3. Boastful In What They Trust About Us There were a lot of things that Paul in this point in his life was not sure of. Would he ever get out of prison? Would he even get out alive? Would he be in another church? There was one thing he was rock-ribbed sure about, "Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:6). Now Paul was actually talking about two things here. He was talking about their relationship to God; their salvation. He was absolutely sure that they	NOTES
would never lose that salvation. That relationship would never be broken, not because of their goodness, but because of God's grace. When God saves a person, He saves that person completely. No one is half saved or three quarters saved. You are one hundred percent saved or one hundred percent lost. There is no in between. When He saves, He saves completely – body, soul and spirit – and I want those in the church and outside of the church to trust in that.	
QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER	
1. What is something you could do as part of the Church to make oth think about us as the body of Christ?	ners grateful when they
2. Are you joyful when you talk about your church, or do you often fir about it instead?	nd yourself complaining
3. Have you ever doubted your salvation, or thought you could lose you are some Scripture verses you can begin to commit to memory in ord	
NOTES	

PART 2: Always Ready Philippians 1:21-23

OVERVIEW	NOTES
There are two things that every human being has to face from the moment they are born. That is life and death. I don't believe you are ready to live until you are ready to die. I also don't believe you are ready to die until you are ready to live. I believe that Jesus is the only one who can truly get you ready for both. When Paul was in prison, he had to go to sleep every night ready to die the next morning. But even in this terrible set of circumstances, he continued to rejoice because he recognized that his life was in Christ, and to die was gain. In this message, I want to walk through the different things we gain when we die, so that we can live our lives unafraid of death.	
KEY POINTS	
1. Experience The Personal Presence Of The Son Of God I believe there is something we can learn from Paul in today's key passage. Our desire to be with Jesus there is directly related to the degree that we love Jesus here. Shouldn't we always want to be with the person that we love more than anything on this planet? Shouldn't we want to love Jesus so much that we always have this burning, passionate desire to be with him whenever he is ready to take us?	
Paul didn't say he had a desire to go to heaven. He said he had a desire to be with Jesus. How do you make that distinction? People sometimes ask, "Where is heaven?" The answer is, "Heaven is where Jesus is." What makes heaven heaven? Not golden streets and not pearly gates. What makes heaven heaven is Jesus. Jesus is not where heaven is; heaven is where Jesus is. That is why when we get to heaven, we are not going to go site seeing; we are going to go Savior seeing.	
2. Enter The Powerful Place Of The Kingdom Of God This universe is not a democracy. It is not a republic. It is not a dictatorship. It is a kingdom and as children of the king we are meant to live eternally in this place called heaven (this kingdom of God) and it is a place unlike any other place we could even think about. It is a perfected place. There are no tears, no sorrow, no graveyards, no hospital, no chemotherapy, no crying, no dying, no pain and no suffering. It is a place that only God could think about and we can only dream of. The place where we are going (this place called heaven) is a place that is built by the hand of God, a place that was conceived in the mind of God, and a place that is dear to the heart of God.	
3. Enjoy The Precious People Of The Family Of God When you were born you came into a world full of people. When you leave you are going to be entering into another world full of people. The difference is all of these people are your true family. I want you to listen to something that Jesus said would be true of everyone who enters into	

PART 2: Always Ready Philippians 1:21-23

the Kingdom of God. "I say to you that many will come from the east and the west and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 8:11). What a beautiful thing it will be to spend eternity with our family in Christ.	NOTES
QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER	
1. Do you enjoy Jesus' presence now as much as you believe you	u will in heaven?
2. What is something you can do to enjoy the Lord's presence here on earth?	more while you're
3. Who is someone you are looking forward to talking to when	you get to heaven?
NOTES	

PART 3: Joyride Philippians 2:1-4

OVERVIEW	NOTES
We only get to take the ride of life once. Shouldn't it be a joyride? Even with the bumps in the road, the sharp curves, the steep cliffs, and the deep valleys, don't you want every hour of every day, of every week, of every year, to be filled with joy? In the coming days, would you like to be less stressed out? Would you like to maximize your pleasure and minimize your pain? Would you like to face life every day with a smile on your face, a bounce to your step, and joy in your heart regardless of your circumstances? In the second chapter of Philippians, Paul gives a three-step formula on how to do that. So, if you want to enjoy the ride of life, I guarantee that you will if you take these three steps.	
KEY POINTS	
1. Give Jesus Preeminence In Philippians 2:2, Paul says, "Then make my joy complete by being likeminded" To be like-minded doesn't mean we always will think the same way, but it does mean we will think on the same things. By thinking the same way that means we all agree that we should give Jesus preeminence to become first. We are to stay in love with him and each other and that we are to be in full fellowship with the Holy Spirit. That does not mean we will also think the same thing. It doesn't mean we will all see things the same way. There is nothing wrong with having differences and discussions and debates and even disagreements. Today, we will let nothing, not politics, not differences, or personalities ever divide us. If I love Jesus supremely and you love Jesus supremely then we will love	
each other. When you are hitting on all eight cylinders with the Son of God, the love of God, and the Spirit of God you will be full of joy by giving Jesus preeminence.	
2. Give Others Priority I know that is counterintuitive and countercultural. We are told today to look out for number one, but the way to joy is to look out for number two. We are told to do everything you can to get ahead. The Bible says to do everything you can to get behind. We are told, "If you have to step on other people to get to the top." The Bible says, "Put other people on your shoulders to help them get to the top."	
The way to joy is to think of others the way you ought to think of others and think of you the way you ought to think of you. That means you should always consider others more important than yourselves. That word "consider" refers to a conclusion that is carefully thought out based on what is true. You don't just pretend that others are more important than you are. You've got to actually come to believe that others actually are more important than you are.	

PART 3: Joyride Philippians 2:1-4

3. Give Yourself Pleasure Do you realize that when you give Jesus first place, others second place, and yourself third place you are going to be full of joy and that is what is going to give you the most pleasure? No one who has ever lived was more full of joy than Jesus. No one who has ever lived gave out more joy than Jesus. The reason that his life was pure, unadulterated, undiluted, undeniable joy was because from the moment, he came to this planet, to the moment he left he was looking out for our interest, not his own. You know the way you want to get to where you want to go in life? It is to help others get to where they want to go in life.	NOTES
QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER	
1. Does Jesus have preeminence in your life, or do your priorities s	eem to be out of order?
2. What is something you can do this week to consciously put oth before your own?	ers needs and interests
3. When was the last time you felt pleasure and full of joy because someone else?	e you did something for
NOTES	

PART 4: What Difference Do I Make?

Philippians 3:7-11

OVERVIEW	NOTES
I believe that two things will determine what difference you made and to the degree that you made a difference - what you know and who you know. Nobody got a bigger bang for the buck of their life, outside of Jesus, than a man named Paul. Besides him, I don't believe anyone who has ever lived had a more productive life, got more out of his potential, or had a greater long-term impact than this man who took a seed called the gospel, planted it as far as he could go, and the result has been the explosion of Christianity that we see all over the world two-thousand years later. How did he do it? What was the secret to his unbelievable influence and impact? Well, we have discovered the secret of who we should know and what we should know that will help us to get where we need to go in life and where God wants us to be when it is over. We should be determined to know three things on a daily basis, and they made all the difference.	
KEY POINTS	
1. We Must Know The Supreme Person Of Jesus It has been said and I think one hundred percent accurately that at the end of the day it is not what you know; it is who you know. Paul is looking back on his life – all the people he had met, all the things he had learned, all of things he had accomplished. When he adds it all up, he makes this incredible statement. "But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ" (Philippians 3:7-8).	
In effect, Paul thinking like an accountant described all of the things he though were gains and profitable in his life - things he thought were his assets before he knew Jesus. Then, when he compared all of that to knowing Jesus, he moved them from the asset column to the liability column and said it was a total loss.	
Take your titles and your treasure, your position and your possessions, your awards and your achievement, your trophies and the case and the car in your garage and if you do not know the supreme person of Jesus you are spiritually bankrupt.	
2. We Must Know The Supernatural Power Of Jesus Paul knew it is not enough just to know the person of Jesus. You must know in a real way the power of Jesus. The greatest power the world has ever seen, known, or heard of is resurrection power. It is one thing to have the power to kill somebody, but it is a totally different thing to have the power to bring that dead person back to life. There is not a computer, an engine, a chemical compound or any other kind of power whether it be electrical or nuclear that can pull that off. Bringing a person back from the dead takes resurrection power.	

PART 4: What Difference Do I Make?

Philippians 3:7-11

The power that God used to raise his son from the dead is available to us. You can take that power and put it in a jar and put it back on a shelf. God has made that power available to us. It is one thing to believe in the power that raised Jesus from the dead. It is another thing to know that power and experience that power in your daily life. The risen Lord didn't just come back from the grave to save us. He sent his Holy Spirit to live in us. If you want to be a frustrated person, come to know the supreme person of Jesus, but fail to know and experience on a daily basis the supernatural power of Jesus.	NOTES
3. We Must Know The Suffering Passion Of Jesus God's goal for all of us is to become just like Jesus. If you are going to become like Jesus, you don't just enjoy the view from the mountaintop; you also have to endure the trouble in the valley. I have learned that you worship God on the mountaintop, but you walk with God in the valley. There is no such thing as a suffer-free Christian life. If you stand for Jesus and speak truth you are going to suffer rejection no matter how much you love Jesus and how much you love others. Eventually, you are going to suffer hurt, and heartache, and physically, eventually you will suffer problems and pain, but there is nothing that will focus you more than Jesus, draw you closer to Jesus, make you more dependent on Jesus, and give you more of a desire to know Jesus, than when you know his suffering passion.	
QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER	
1. Have you come to a point where you truly believe that Jesus is anyone else in your life?	greater than anything or
2. When was a time you can remember experiencing the power of Je	sus working in your life?
3. Has there been a season in your life where you suffered, but you what did you learn from that time?	grew in your faith? If so,
NOTES	

PART 5: Eyes on the Prize Philippians 3:12-14

OVERVIEW	NOTES
Life is exactly like a race. From the time you are born until the time you die you are running a race. The one goal in every race is to cross the finish line. No matter what else you do in a race it doesn't matter how hard you run or how fast you run. If you don't cross the finish line you won't win. One sure-fire way to get joy and ultimately win in the life you are living is to set God-given goals and then to give your life every day to reaching those goals. A man by the name of Paul gives us the formula on how to do that. He gives us three simple steps that you can use at the beginning of every year, every month, every week, and every day to make that year, that month, that week, and that day the best year, best month, best week and best day of your life.	
KEY POINTS	
1. Forget What Is Behind You Too many people never get to where they need to go today or tomorrow, because they are still living in yesterday. The truth is you can't focus on where you are going until you forget where you've been. No runner has ever won a race by running the entire time looking backwards. Don't misunderstand what that word "forget" means, though. It doesn't mean to "fail to remember." I mean there is no way you can ever totally erase the past from your memory. The word "forget" literally means "not to be influenced or affected by." If we really want to experience the kind of joy Paul talks about, we must all learn from the past, live in the present, and look to the future.	
2. Focus On What Is Before You Paul has put his past where it belongs in the rearview mirror. Now he can put the present where it belongs – on his windshield. Paul gives us the secret to what we must do every day if we are going to get the most out of that day and that day is going to get the most out of us. "Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do" (Philippians 3:13).	
God has called every one of us to accomplish one goal. If you accomplish this one goal in your life on a daily basis you will maximize the influence you have in your business, in your home, in your neighborhood, in your family and every other area of your life. This is the one thing we must seek daily to know God and glorify him. No matter what other goals you achieve in life it doesn't matter how many ladders you climb and how high you climb them. If you do not know God and glorify him with everything you are and everything you have, your life is a waste and you chased the wrong goal.	
3. Face What Is Beyond You Remember, life is like a race. In this passage, Paul is talking like an athlete. What he is saying is, "No matter how dark tomorrow may look, no matter	

PART 5: Eyes on the Prize Philippians 3:12-14

how dire my circumstances may be, no matter how discouraging things may appear, I am going to keep running. I won't be deterred. I won't be detoured and I won't be distracted. I am going to keep my eyes on the prize of knowing God and glorying him until I hit the finish line of my life.	NOTES
Let me ask you what one thing will you focus on for the rest of your life? At the end of the day, at the end of every day, we all focus on one or two things – what we want or what God wants. Too many people spend their life making things instead making things count. What would it mean for you if you finally got your eyes on the right prize and every day you pressed on toward that prize?	
QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER	
1. What is something in your past that you need to learn from a	and then let go of?
2. What has God put right in front of you, in your windshield, in order to bring Him glory?	that you can focus on
3. What is one verse in Scripture you can commit to memory eye on the prize as you run the race that is a life devoted to Chi	
NOTES	

PART 6: Stress Out

Philippians 4:4-7

OVERVIEW	NOTES
The question now before us in today's message is this: How can you bear the fruit of joy that you have to handle, with all the problems that you have to solve, with all the people that you have to deal with? A man who is in prison, under the threat of death every day, not knowing whether he would live or die, from one day to the next, wrote the perfect prescription for how to get stress out when you are stressed out. Paul gives us four steps to follow if we want to experience stress relief, and I can guarantee that your life will be richer, better, and sweeter if you practice these steps on a daily basis.	
KEY POINTS	
1. Rejoice In The Person Of The Lord Are your pressures great? The Lord is greater than your pressures. Are your problems big? The Lord is bigger than your problems. Are the people you deal with mean? The Lord is better than your people. You can't always rejoice in your circumstances. You aren't going to find a lot of joy in big pressures, tough problems and difficult people, but you can always rejoice in the Lord. You can always rejoice in the greatness of the Lord. You can always rejoice in the grace of the Lord. You can always rejoice in the goodness of the Lord, but you can do this. Choose to be joyful. Do you know why? Because happiness is determined by what happens to you. If what happens is bad you aren't going to be happy. If what happens is good you may be happy. But no matter what happens, you can always choose to be joyful.	
2. Relax In The Presence Of The Lord The evidence you can give to other people that you trust God is how you handle the stressful times in your life. You want your family members, your friends, your coworkers, your neighbors to see how a real Christian handles real problems. We don't freak out or run out; we remain contagiously calm and trustful that we have the presence of God right beside us. Instead of focusing on the problem and the pressure and the people and forgetting about God, we focus on God and let him handle the problems, and the pressure and the people. The gentleness will be evident to everybody.	
3. Release Your Problems To The Lord I know it gets irritating when you are worried and somebody says to you, "Quit worrying", but that is exactly what Paul does. If you want to put a positive spin on it, he says, "Worry about nothing." That is a lot easier said than done. There is a reason why we shouldn't worry. It is a waste of time. I once heard worry defined this way: "Worry is like sitting in a rocking chair. It gives you something to do, but it doesn't get you anywhere."	
How do you keep from worrying? What is the alternative? Paul tells us how when he says, "but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (Philippians 4:6, NIV). Worry	

about nothing. Pray about everything. You know what we tend to do? We

PART 6: Stress Out

Philippians 4:4-7

tend to worry about everything and pray about nothing! Those are your only two alternatives and you will do one or the other.	NOTES
4. Rest In The Peace Of The Lord God's peace is the only peace that can come from God. The peace that only God can give will be a guard over your heart and your mind. Stress cannot penetrate. This is not the kind of temporary peace that people try to find through money or drugs or alcohol or sex, because that peace never lasts anyway. It is a peace that can't be bought, borrowed, or stolen. It is not found in a pill; it is found in a person. It is not a drug or a drink; it is found in a deity. So, when you want to get the stress out, when you are stressed out, I want you to imagine you have three boxes. One box is labeled "worry." One box is labeled "prayer." One box is labeled "thanksgiving." In the worry box, you put nothing. In the prayer box, you put everything. In the thanksgiving box, you put anything. If you put each of those things in the box where they belong, you will find when you are stressed out, God will take the stress out.	
QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER	
What is something that causes you a lot of stress?	
2. What is one practical step you can take to relax in God's presenc	e and rest in His peace?
3. What is one thing you can release to the Lord right now worrying about it?	so that you can stop
NOTES	

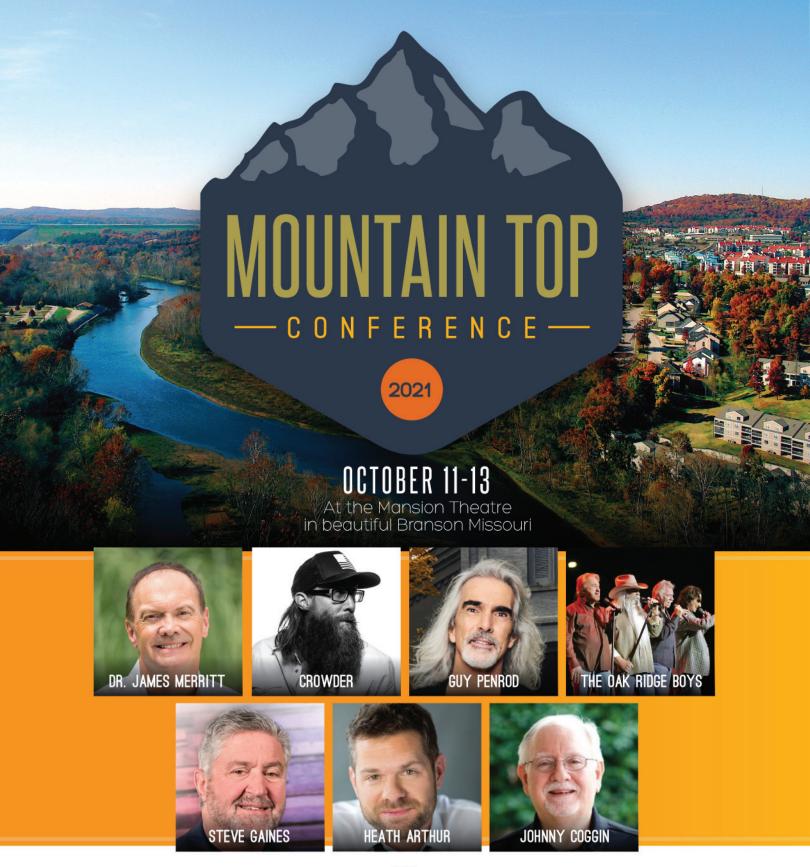
PART 7: Totally Satisfied Philippians 4:10-19

OVERVIEW	NOTES
Jesus came to give us joy, peace, satisfaction, and contentment. Paul understood that probably better than anyone, even as he was writing from a Roman prison, when he wasn't going anywhere and was stuck where he was. He wasn't going to have any more than what he had, and he certainly had no computer and no cellphone. He pens this letter by talking about how he had found the secret of satisfaction. If Paul had died with his last words he would have been totally satisfied. There are three things we can do to live a life of total satisfaction according to Paul, and my prayer is that we all learn to implement these things in our lives so we can be totally satisfied as well.	
KEY POINTS	
1. Remember God's Purpose For You Paul said he had learned the secret of satisfaction. Contentment is not just a principle that you practice; it is a lesson that you learn. This why I want you to draw up close and listen and learn today what your life really is. This is a school you never graduate from, and you never get your doctor's degree from. School is never out and that is the school of life. When you give your heart to God, you enroll in his university. He teaches every class. A disciple means "learner." God never quits teaching and we should never quit learning. It doesn't matter what you are doing, whether you are reading your Bible, dealing with a problem, parenting a child, working in a difficult job, going through a tough time, or dealing with a medical issue there is a question you should always be asking, "God, what are you wanting to teach me?" Some of the greatest lessons God wants to teach us is the lesson of satisfaction.	
2. Rely On God's Power In Your Life You see, there are a lot of things we all think we can't do that we can. You need to remember this about the life you live as a follower of Jesus, "The Christian life is not a matter of can or can't; it is a matter of will or won't. If you know what God wants you to do, He has already given you the power to do it. You can worship God in spirit and in truth. You can serve God in his church and through his church. You can disciple other people and be discipled by other people. You can send and be sent. You can go across the street or around the world and share your faith, because you can do anything through Christ that He wants you to do, because He strengthens you.	
3. Reckon On God's Provision To You Let me ask a simple and somewhat foolish question. "If you knew that if you were living in the will of God, and that God is in control of your life, that you would always be where you should be, do what you should do, and have what you should have, would you then be totally satisfied?" Here is the good news. "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his	

glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

PART 7: Totally Satisfied Philippians 4:10-19

Let me tell you, there are some great promises in the Bible, but I don't know of a greater promise than this one. If you are living in the center of God's will, being obedient and faithful to him, you have every right and reason to expect that any real need you have in your life God is going to meet. Now to be clear, God has promised to supply your needs, not your greed. God has never promised to supply everything we want, but everything that we need. If there is a real need in your life, God will meet that need. If he hasn't met that need yet, one of two things is true. Either it is not a true need, or you don't need it yet. That need make not be met in your way, but it will be met	NOTES
in his. It may not be met in your time, but it will be met in his. He will provide.	
QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER	
1. What do you believe is God's purpose for your life? What are that purpose?	e you doing to live out
2. Is there something God is calling you to do, but you've been t don't think you're capable of doing it?	oo afraid because you
3. When was a time God met a need in your life, but He met it is you expected?	n a different way than
NOTES	





CALL 800-413-1131 TO BOOK NOW!

For full details, visit: mountaintopconference.com





MARCH 25-27 - GATLINGBURG CONVENTION CENTER

REGISTER NOW

at TouchingLives.org OR SCAN CODE TO GO DIRECTLY TO REGISTRATION PAGE

