



The Birth Pains of Growth
The Vineyard Church of Conroe
Joel Looney
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Sermon Outline Notes

A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. John 16:21

Our Telos is refined THROUGH STRUGGLE, DISCOMFORT, & PAIN

When I was with you, you saw the struggles I had, and you hear about the struggles I am having now. You yourselves are having the same kind of struggles.^{2:1} Does your life in Christ give you strength? Does his love comfort you? Do we share together in the spirit? Do you have mercy and kindness?² If so, make me very happy by having the same thoughts, sharing the same love, and having one mind and purpose. Philippians 1:30-2:2 NCV

I. Philippians 4:1-5 NCV

My dear brothers and sisters, I love you and want to see you. You bring me joy and make me proud of you, so stand strong in the Lord as I have told you.² I ask Euodia and Syntyche to agree in the Lord.³ And I ask you, my faithful friend, to help these women. They served with me in telling the Good News, together with Clement and others who worked with me, whose names are written in the book of life.⁴ Be full of joy in the Lord always. I will say again, be full of joy.⁵ Let everyone see that you are gentle and kind. The Lord is coming soon.

Telos is Refined through RELATIONAL CONFLICT

And gives birth to JOY & A SENSE OF PRIDE IN EACH OTHER

“You’re blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That’s when you discover who you really are, and your place in God’s family. Matthew 5:9 MSG

II. Philippians 4:6-9 NCV

⁶ Do not worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks. ⁷ And God’s peace, which is so great we cannot understand it, will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Brothers and sisters, think about the things that are good and worthy of praise. Think about the things that are true and honorable and right and pure and beautiful and respected. ⁹ Do what you learned and received from me, what I told you, and what you saw me do. And the God who gives peace will be with you.

Telos is Refined through INNER TURMOIL

And gives birth to A NEW PERSPECTIVE & INEXPLICABLE PEACE

“You’re blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world. Matthew 5:8 MSG

III. Philippians 4:10-14 NCV

¹⁰ I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. ¹¹ I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹² I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³ I can do all this through him who gives me strength. ¹⁴ Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles.

Telos is Refined through LIFE HARDSHIP

And gives birth to TEAMWORK & INTERDEPENDENCE

“You’re blessed when you’re at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule. Matthew 5:3 MSG