

THE TAKE AWAY

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sunday, September 11, 2022
The Book of Philippians

Message Summary:

This week in our series, The Book of Philippians, Pastor John examined to Philippians 1:12-14:

[Phil. 1:12-14 NKJV] 12 But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, 13 so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; 14 and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

The Bible clearly tells us that if we belong to Jesus, we will experience the push back in this life - not only from external opposition around us, but also from a spiritual enemy who would love to see us fail. And while it does mean that we have to push back against that opposition, this struggle is designed to build us and build in us a faith that is so robust, it can obtain victory and further the gospel. Paul learned this himself. Phil.1 and the book of Acts clearly tells us that Paul experienced both great success and great persecution. He was doing the right things – setting people free, sharing the gospel, healing others – and yet he was imprisoned. He did the right things, but kept experiencing the hardship of suffering. But it produced in Paul such a strong faith and witness, everyone in the prison could see it. He kept sharing the gospel and preaching the good news even in prison! The fact that he was in chains, and was STILL preaching the gospel, caused others to become saved, as well as more confident and more bold to speak the word of God without fear.

Even though Paul was in chains, his chains became evidence of his faith and the gospel message. What had happened to him, the hardships he could not control, became his testimony. Your chains in life, the things you feel like are holding you back, God can use to further His plans and purposes for your life. God can use your chains to make a difference in the lives of others. That is the power of testimony. What you have experienced, the hardships God has brought you through, can serve as evidence to someone else who needs to see how good God is. Your story has the power to change the life of someone else and their story for Christ!

Other Scriptures:

[Eph. 6:12 NKJV] 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual [hosts] of wickedness in the heavenly [places].

[James 1:2-3 NKJV] 2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is a testimony?
2. How does your testimony further the gospel?
3. How can sharing your story make others bolder as they share their story or the word of God?

Life Application:

This week, reread our key verses for today, Philippians 1:12-14. This week, remember back over all God has done in your life. Recall those moments where God moved in your struggle and did things for you only He could do. Those moments are your testimony. They are your story. Those moments are how you KNOW God is real. Your testimony has purpose and power to further the gospel message. That means we must share our story with others, because our story is evidence of the gospel story in action. Your testimony can lead someone to Jesus and grow the kingdom of God. So who are you supposed to be sharing your story with?