



**I'M DOING THIS
FOR ME**

S E R M O N G U I D E

I'm Doing This For Me

Galatians 1:1-24

INTRODUCTION

They call him the world's most flexible man. Yogi Daniel is a yoga master and black belt artist who has spent his life perfecting the art of contortion. He can bend and twist his body into seemingly impossible positions, even fitting into a 14x18x18 inch glass box. It's incredible to watch, but it made me realize something. There are contortionists all around us. No, not physical contortionists, but people trying to twist and fold their lives into boxes not designed for them. Some live in career boxes chosen by their parents, others in social boxes designed by culture, political boxes inherited from their communities, or religious boxes forced by their church. All around us, people are trying to live in boxes of unrealistic expectations and predetermined molds for life that don't fit them. And maybe that's you. You're frustrated because you've spent so much time doing what others wanted you to do, and now you're stuck in a box you don't even like. But here's the word today: "I'm doing this for me."

KEY POINTS

1. Have the Courage to Break the Box

Paul shows us that rather than trying to squeeze into socially constructed boxes, we need the courage to break them. His opponents questioned his apostleship because he wasn't one of the original disciples, never walked with Jesus, and had a past of persecuting Christians. They wanted him to conform to their traditions and experiences, but Paul said no. He declared, "Paul an apostle—sent neither by human commission nor from human authorities but through Jesus Christ and God the Father." Paul refused to let others define his calling, and we need to do the same. Like the woman with the alabaster box, sometimes you just have to shatter what's trying to confine you. Jesus Himself was a box breaker—breaking social, religious, and political customs everywhere He went. And if we want to live free, we too must break the boxes of other people's expectations.

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2. Be Secure in Yourself

Paul was honest about his past. He said, “You have heard... of my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it.” He didn’t hide from where he came from, but he also declared, “But when the one who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace was pleased to reveal his Son to me...” Paul knew his calling didn’t come from human approval but from a divine encounter with Jesus. His security wasn’t in people but in God’s grace. That’s a word for us—Jesus has set us free, not from the presence of this evil age, but from the power of it. And part of that freedom is being released from other people’s definitions.

3. Don’t Let Others Define You

Paul refused to accept the false teaching that people had to follow Jewish laws before they could be Christians. That wasn’t freedom—it was control. The enemy will try to misdefine you, shrinking you down to labels from your past or expectations of others. But freedom comes when you declare, “That’s not me.” Like David refusing Saul’s armor to face Goliath, sometimes you have to take off what doesn’t fit. Clarity is costly. It may cost you popularity, platforms, or relationships, but it’s better to be clear and criticized than confused and applauded. Paul’s stand against false teaching opened the door for salvation to spread to the nations. And today, the challenge remains: don’t let others name you, box you in, or define your calling.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What “boxes” have you felt pressured to fit into (career, family, cultural, or religious) and how have they affected your walk with God?
2. Paul was secure in who he was because of Christ’s grace, not people’s approval. Where in your life do you need to grow in that kind of confidence?
3. How can we learn to stand firm in our faith even if it means standing alone?
