

Overcome by Suffering, but Overwhelmed with Joy

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Bible Passage: Philippians 1:12-15

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

Fighter Memory Verse

AUGUST

Proverbs 19:11

Good sense makes one
slow to anger, and it is
his glory to overlook an
offense.

Big Idea: Finding joy through _____ affirms the _____ of your faith.

#1- God decrees that we suffer in order to advance the gospel (12-18)

- God chooses what we view as our weaknesses and failures to _____ the gospel and ultimately His Kingdom.
 - A. The gospel reaches a new _____.
 - B. Believers are _____ to witness.
 - C. Even though others use misfortune to _____ you.
- The gospel was being _____ and God chose Paul to defend it publicly.

#2- Joy produces a gospel-centered response to suffering (18-26)

- A. Deliverance comes by the Holy Spirit through _____.
- B. Opposition is an opportunity for Christ to be _____ by your life.
- C. _____ with _____ will bring a far greater joy than any victory you can achieve in this life.
Most of us think: Life = _____. Death = _____.

Paul believed: Life = _____. Death = _____.

Living for comfort, ease, temporary wealth, position, status, acclaim, etc = _____.

D. Suffering _____ the soil of our own hearts, helping us point others to the _____ of Christ.

TRUTH INTO ACTION

- **How do you fight for joy?**
 - 1. Know what God's Word tells us about joy.
- Psalm 92:4; Jeremiah 15:16; Habakkuk 3:18-19; 1 Thessalonians 1:6; Galatians 5:22
 - 2. View pain and suffering through the lens of eternity.
 - 2 Corinthians 4:17-18
 - 3. Believe that you can experience joy in suffering because Jesus did.
 - Hebrews 12:2

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Pray first



Please understand we want to help you know Jesus personally and journey with you in taking fresh steps of obedience daily for Jesus. We would love to pray with you and for you. Join us at the end of the service for prayer or send us your request on the Connect Card and we will lift them up throughout the week.

Table Talk

This lesson is a follow up to the sermon. Please take the time this week to work through it in your community group or around your own kitchen table.

Warm Up: What do you wish you could change in your life or circumstances? Why?

1. Who wrote these verses, and where was he? (read Philippians 1:12-26)
2. God chooses what we view as our weaknesses and failures to advance the gospel and ultimately His Kingdom. How or why do you think He does that?
3. Philippians 1:14 reads, *And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.* Have you witnessed someone boldly speak about Jesus even when he or she was being opposed or ridiculed? Have you ever been encouraged to stand up for your faith by watching someone else's boldness for Christ? How can your bold faith embolden someone else to speak up for Christ or live out his or her faith?
4. In verse 18 Paul mentions joy by saying, "I will rejoice." Then in verse 19 he tells us the source of that joy. What or whom produced joy in the midst of his suffering? How does praying for those who are suffering enable them to experience joy?
5. In verse 19 Paul states that these trials will "turn out for my deliverance." What "deliverance" do you think Paul was hoping to realize? Did the deliverance Paul received come in the way he anticipated or desired? How was Paul ultimately "delivered?" What kind of deliverance do we want when facing hardships? How might God choose to deliver us?

Prayer: Father, I admit that I would not choose the hardships and trials I am facing if I had the choice. Thank you for the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit to encourage my obedience. Help me to fight for joy when I am tempted to be discouraged. May my boldness and joy in Jesus inspire others to seek Him as well. Thank you for the deliverance that only You can bring to our suffering world. In the powerful name of Jesus, I ask this, amen.