

Made for Significance

Philippians 1:12-30



1 Corinthians 2:3

I came to you in weakness—timid and trembling.

2 Corinthians 12:7-9

7 ...Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.

8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.

9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

Read Philippians 1:12-19

Paul says his circumstances have turned out to advance the gospel.

Paul's circumstances included...

violence at the hand of mobs, imprisonment, death threats, public ridicule attempted extortion, a storm at sea, shipwreck, a snakebite, now house arrest in Rome

Paul didn't ask, "Why is this happening to me?"

He asked, "What can God make of this?"

Paul sees with his spiritual eyes that the Gospel is moving right into the heart of an empire, 12-13

You can view circumstances as opposition or opportunity.

Read Philippians 4:21-22

His imprisonment has emboldened many other Christians 14

Romans 15:20

It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation.

Insincere messengers don't derail him, 15-18

He has learned to see things from God's perspective.

Acts 9:15-16

15 But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel.

16 I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

Paul realized his potential to either shame or exalt Christ

Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

He could face death without fear, 20-26

Read Philippians 1:20-26