

Mission Focus

What Faithful Leaders Do During Adversity

Ephesians 6:21-24

I. While imprisoned, the Apostle Paul focused his attention on the needs of the church (vv. 21-24).

- A. Paul mobilized Tychicus to minister to the church at Ephesus (vv. 21-22).
 - 1. Tychicus was mobilized to inform the church about Paul's condition (v. 21a).
 - 2. Tychicus was mobilized to assure the church about Paul's ministry (v. 21b).
 - 3. Tychicus was mobilized to encourage the church with God's faithfulness (vv. 21c-22).
- B. Paul blessed the church at Ephesus (vv. 23-24).
 - 1. Paul blessed the church with the assurance of God's peace and love (v. 23).
 - 2. Paul blessed the church with the empowerment of God's grace (v. 24).
- C. Paul's purpose governed his decisions instead of his problems (cf. 1 Cor. 10:33; Eph. 5:16).

II. Faithful leaders are driven by God's vision through adversity (2 Cor. 12:7-10).

- A. God uses adversity to protect his vision for our life (vv. 7-8).
- B. God uses adversity to put us in a position of true power (vv. 9-11).
- C. Strength comes by relying on God instead of running from the problem (Neh. 1:1-4, 2:1-8)!

III. Move toward the mission!

- A. Focus on what you *can* do, not on what you can't do
- B. Look for the potential, not at the problem
- C. Accept the path of hardship
- D. Get in the position of prayer.