



**Intro:** Last week we began our current sermon series entitled Everyday Encouragement. Walking through the book of Philippians we discovered that God is an encouraging God. He is for you not against you. His desire is that you live an abundant joy filled, encouraged life and that you be an encouragement to those around you. Last week we discovered that if we are to live an abundant, joy filled, encouraged life and be an encouragement to others it all begins with developing a joy filled, encouraged prayer life!

**Our prayers should be:**

FULL OF PRAISE! (Praise God continually...more about God less about you in prayer/life)

FULL OF THANKS (Be grateful for those around you)

FULL OF JOY (enjoy the union and enduring partnership God has put you in)

**Our prayers should be:**

PRAYED WITH GREAT FAITH (Faith is the substance of things hoped for. Heb. 11:1)

PRAYED WITH CONVICTION (Fully convinced that God does as he has spoken Rom 4:21)

PRAYED WITH CONFIDENCE (You have a spirit of power, love and sound mind 2 Tim. 1:7)

**Our prayers should be:**

Leading to Increased Revelation

Leading to Discernment and Empowerment

Leading to Full righteousness

**Paul was constantly encouraging the Philippians to Grow in Christ.**

**God is constantly encouraging you to come to him and Grow in Him**

**Why!**

**Because the life lived everyday in Jesus gives you grace, peace and joy overflowing no matter what challenges you face naturally! Jesus said "In this world you will have tribulation but be of good cheer. I have overcome the world!"**

**How do you view your situation? Is it an obstacle or an opportunity?**

Vs. 12-16 "**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 [b]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. **15** Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill: **16** The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains; **17** but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel."

Rather than be discouraged, Paul chose to be encouraged and see it as an opportunity. He said it “has not hindered but helped my ministry of preaching the gospel.”

**Paul viewed the defense of the gospel and the persecution it entails as part of his calling and He chose to rejoice in it! Which leads to our second question...**

### **How do you respond to your situation?**

Vs. 17-26 “What then? Only *that* in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this **I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.** 19 For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, 20 according to **my earnest expectation and hope** that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to me, **to live is Christ, and to die is gain.** 22 But if I live on in the flesh, this *will mean* fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I [d]cannot tell. 23 For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, *which is* far better. 24 Nevertheless to remain in the flesh *is* more needful for you. 25 And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith, 26 that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.

### **Notice Paul’s Response**

**Vs. 18 “I rejoice and ...I will continue to rejoice!”**

**Vs. 20 “My earnest expectation... (Confident expectation of God moving on his behalf)**

**Vs. 21 “My TRUE life is the Jesus Christ and dying means gaining more of Him.**

### **\*KEY TRUTHS\***

Vs.27-28 “27 Only **let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ**, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, 28 and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but [f]to you of salvation, and that from God.

### **Live according to the reality of the gospel!**

The reality of the gospel is unchanging! (Forever settled in the heavens Ps. 119:89)

The reality of the gospel is unfailing (The word accomplishes what it was sent to do Isa. 55:11)

The reality of the gospel is TRUTH (Your Word is truth! John 17:17)

**Vs. 29-30 “29 For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, 30 having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear *is* in me.**

**Closing: Instead of seeking the path of least resistance, recognize the privilege of the calling, embrace both the calling and its suffering and build some endurance.**

Romans 5:3-5 “And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”