

Shalom AZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption



"Upheld By the Name Above All Names"

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts (TLV): Phil. 2:9-11; Phil. 1:27-30; 2:1-8; Is. 45:18-25; Mt. 23:11-12; John 15:18-21

Pressure has a way of revealing what is inside of us. Pressure squeezes—and what's "inside the tube" comes out. When life is comfortable, it can be fairly easy to be patient, gracious, humble, and considerate of others. But when the pressure presses us—when we are tired, hurt, opposed, disappointed, or pushed toward our limits—it can bring out things in us that we didn't know were there—things we would rather not see. We can become short-tempered, defensive, self-protective, or determined to fight for what we believe we deserve. And sometimes we even excuse those attitudes by saying, "Well, I'm under a lot of pressure." The believers in Philippi understood pressure far beyond what many of us experience. Their allegiance to Yeshua could carry a very real cost, and Paul knew that pressure could begin to affect the way they treated one another and the way they walked out their faith.

So Paul points them back to Yeshua. He does not give them theology simply for theology's sake. He points them to the One after whom their lives are supposed to be modeled. Yeshua did not grasp for position; He emptied Himself. He did not pursue empty glory; He humbled Himself. He became obedient even to death—*"even death on a cross"* (Phil. 2:8). And now, beginning in verse 9, Paul turns from Yeshua's humiliation to His exaltation. The One who went to the lowest of the low has been exalted to the highest of the high. And that means that when we find ourselves down low, we are not abandoned there. We are upheld by the One who has already walked through suffering, overcome it, and has been given **the Name above every name**.

1. THE ONE WHO WENT TO THE LOWEST HAS BEEN EXALTED TO THE HIGHEST

There is a tremendous contrast between verses 8 and 9. Yeshua humbled Himself to the lowest humility imaginable—*"becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross"* (Phil. 2:8)—and therefore God highly exalted Him (2:9). The word Paul uses is powerful. He was not simply exalted; He was exalted to the highest place. He went from the lowest of the low to the highest of the high. Yeshua had already taught this very principle: *"The greatest among you shall be your servant. Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled, and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted."* (Matt. 23:11-12). Yeshua did not merely teach that truth; He walked it. He emptied Himself, took the form of a servant, humbled Himself, and God placed the ultimate exclamation point upon His life and obedience by exalting Him above all.

And Paul wants the Philippians—and us—to see what that means when we are walking through our own lowest places. You may feel down low right now. You may feel misunderstood, opposed, overlooked, exhausted, or even as though faithfulness has cost you more than you expected. But look at Yeshua. The lowest place was not the final place. The cross was not the end of the story. What looked like humiliation and defeat became the road to exaltation and true victory. So do not begin grasping because you are afraid. Do not begin fighting for self because the pressure has become painful. Keep your eyes on Him. Keep walking in His way. The One who humbled Himself and was exalted is the One holding you now. You will not always be where you are today. **Hang on. Your Savior is victorious.**

2. AT THE NAME OF YESHUA EVERY KNEE WILL BOW

Paul says that God *“gave Him the name that is above every name.”* There is something much deeper happening here than simply saying that Yeshua has a beautiful or important name. Paul deliberately draws upon Is. 45, where ADONAI declares that He alone is God, Creator, Savior, and Lord over all. ADONAI says, *“I am ADONAI—there is no other!”* (Is. 45:18), and later, *“Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth. For I am God—there is no other.”* (Is. 45:22). Then comes the declaration Paul draws directly into Philippians: *“To Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear.”* (Is. 45:23). Yet in Philippians, where the Lord says through Isaiah that every knee would bow “to Me,” Paul says, *“at the name of Yeshua every knee should bow.”* The Name above every name—the Name belonging to the Lord—is bestowed upon Yeshua. He is ADONAI. He is Lord of all.

Think about what that meant to believers living in Philippi. Rome declared that Caesar was lord. There was tremendous cultural and political pressure to bow, to conform, and to give Caesar an allegiance that belonged only to God. Refusing that allegiance could cost believers relationships, security, livelihood, freedom, and sometimes life itself. Yet Paul tells them that Caesar does not have the final word. Every ruler on earth, every ruler who has gone into the grave, every power in the heavenlies, every being wrongly worshiped by the nations—**every knee will bow before Yeshua**. The powers that frighten us today are temporary. The pressures demanding our allegiance are temporary. The name of Yeshua is not temporary. So when something in this world demands that we compromise faithfulness in order to protect ourselves, remember who truly sits upon the throne. The One holding you is the One before whom all creation will ultimately bow.

3. EVERY TONGUE WILL CONFESS THAT YESHUA THE MESSIAH IS LORD

Not only will every knee bow, but every tongue will make the same confession: **Yeshua the Messiah is Lord**. There is an incredible irony here. In Philippi, society was demanding the confession, “Caesar is lord.” Believers were being pressured to say something with their mouths that was to reflect an allegiance in their hearts. Yet Paul says that a day is coming when Caesar himself will join all creation in declaring the truth: Yeshua is Lord. Every tongue in heaven, on earth, and under the earth will acknowledge what suffering believers are confessing now. The confession that may cost something today will one day be universally acknowledged as true.

That gives us tremendous assurance when faithfulness becomes costly. Yeshua told us, *“If the world hates you, know that it has hated Me before you”* (John 15:18), and He reminded us, *“A servant is not greater than his master”* (John 15:20). Paul had already told the Philippians, *“For to you was granted for Messiah’s sake not only to trust in Him, but also to suffer for His sake”* (Phil. 1:29). We have been graced not merely to believe but also, when necessary, to suffer faithfully. Yet the One for whom we suffer has been graced with the Name above every name. So we do not confess Yeshua as Lord merely when it is convenient. We confess Him with our words, our decisions, our relationships, our attitudes, and the way we respond under pressure. And ultimately, it is all *“to the glory of God the Father.”*

CONCLUSION

The grandeur of this passage can easily cause us to forget why Paul placed it here. He is not giving the Philippians a theological detour. He is bringing them back to Messiah Himself. *“Have this attitude in yourselves, which also was in Messiah Yeshua”* (Phil. 2:5). If this is how Yeshua

walked, then this is how His followers must walk. It is not about grasping. It is not about fighting for self. It is not about empty glory. Yeshua emptied Himself. He humbled Himself. He became obedient. And therefore Paul continues, *“Therefore, my loved ones, just as you have always obeyed... work out your salvation with fear and trembling”* (Phil. 2:12). We have to walk this out. Genuine life in Messiah is a life continually being transformed by the Holy Spirit into the likeness of Messiah.

Maybe today the pressure pressing you has begun to reveal attitudes that do not look very much like Him. Maybe fear has made you grasp harder. Maybe disappointment has made you fight for yourself. Maybe hurt has made you resentful, or pressure has tempted you to compromise something you know belongs to Yeshua alone. This is the moment to come back to Him. Lay down the need to defend yourself, exalt yourself, vindicate yourself, or control what happens next. Bow the knee willingly now before the One before whom every knee will one day bow. Confess again—not merely with your mouth, but with your life—**Yeshua the Messiah is Lord**. Give Him the pressure, the fear, the suffering, and the outcome. Keep your eyes on Him and keep walking in His way. You may feel down low today, but you are being held by the One who has been exalted to the highest place. **You are upheld by the Name above all names.**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. According to Phil. 2:9, what is the relationship between Yeshua’s humility and obedience in verses 6–8 and His exaltation in verse 9?
2. How does Paul’s use of Is. 45:23 help us understand what he means when he says that Yeshua has been given *“the name that is above every name”*?
3. The Philippian believers lived in a society that pressured them to acknowledge Caesar as lord. What voices, values, fears, or cultural pressures today can compete for the allegiance that belongs to Yeshua alone?
4. When you are under pressure, what attitudes tend to surface in you—grasping, self-protection, anger, selfish ambition, fear, or something else? How would keeping your eyes on Yeshua change the way you respond?
5. Is there an area of your life right now where you need to stop fighting for the outcome and trust that you are being upheld by the One who is Lord over every circumstance? What would it look like to bow that area before Him today?

CLOSING PRAYER

ADONAI, thank You for revealing Your heart to us through Messiah Yeshua. Thank You that He did not grasp for Himself, but emptied Himself, humbled Himself, became a servant, and walked in obedience even to death on a cross. Thank You that You have highly exalted Him and given Him the Name above every name. Yeshua, You are Lord. Teach us to live that confession, not merely with our mouths but with our attitudes, our relationships, our decisions, and the way we respond when pressure comes. Forgive us for the places where we grasp, fight for ourselves, pursue empty glory, or allow fear to determine our actions. Develop Your mind in us by the power of the Holy Spirit. When we are down low, remind us that we are held by You. Give us courage to remain faithful, humility to walk as You walked, and assurance that every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Yeshua the Messiah is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

B'Shem Yeshua, In the name of Yeshua, amen.