

When Life Gets Difficult

Pastor Derek Forseth

June 23, 2019

Philippians 1:6

Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:13-14

¹³ As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard & to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. ¹⁴ And because of my chains, most of the brothers & sisters have become confident in the Lord & dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

Truth

Suffering & persevering can be a spiritual blessing to others.

Philippians 1:20-26

²⁰ I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²² If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know!

Cont.

²³ I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; ²⁴ but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, & I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

Question

- ▶ Can God be glorified & others blessed by the difficulties I am going through?

**God will lead you
where he wants you
to be, but you have
to talk to him daily
to see where he
wants you to go.
The key is prayer.**

Philippians 1:27-30

²⁷ Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come & see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you.

Cont.

This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. ²⁹ For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, ³⁰ since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, & now hear that I still have.

Truth

We need to
have a
heavenly not
an earthly
mindset.

Philippians 3:20-21

²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

1 John 2:16-17

¹⁶ For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, & the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.¹⁷ The world & its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

Three general categories of sin

- ▶ Lust of the flesh
- ▶ Lust of the eyes
- ▶ Pride of life

Proverbs 16:18

Pride goes
before
destruction, a
haughty
spirit before a
fall.

Philippians 1:28

Without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God.

Philippians 1:29

For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him,

2 Timothy 3:12

In fact, everyone who wants to live
a godly life in Christ Jesus will be
persecuted,

Truth

The true church is NOT
perfect but is being
perfected.

Truth

If there is no opposition to our walk of faith then something isn't right.

Isaiah 59:19 KJV

So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, & his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him.

Truth

When we become dangerous to the enemy of our souls he will put up a fight.

When we face suffering & difficulties

- ▶ 1- We need to understand the nature of the attack.
- ▶ 2- We need to engage in spiritual warfare.
 - ▶ 2 Corinthians 10:4-The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.
- ▶ 3- We don't give up before the battle is over.
- ▶ 4- We need to understand that the battle may cost us.

Philippians 1:29

29 For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him,

LUKE 21:25-28

²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, moon & stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish & perplexity at the roaring & tossing of the sea.²⁶ People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. ²⁷ At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power & great glory.²⁸ When these things begin to take place, stand up & lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”