

Perspective

Philippians 1:12-24

"...I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, ..." Philippians 1:18d (New International Version)

"Perspective" (point-of-view or worldview) = a mental view or outlook on life; a set of presuppositions from which I consider the world and what happens in the world.

In Philippians 1:12-26 Paul exemplifies **four perspectives** which help believers experience joy when life isn't perfect.

- **PERSPECTIVE #1: GOD IS AT WORK FOR GOOD IN EVERY ONE OF MY PROBLEMS.**

¹²And I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, that everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News. ¹³For everyone here, including all the soldiers in the palace guard, knows that I am in chains because of Christ. ¹⁴And because of my imprisonment, many of the Christians here have gained confidence and become more bold in telling others about Christ. Philippians 1:12-14 (New Living Translation) (1996)

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. Romans 8:28 (NLT)(1996)

- **PERSPECTIVE #2: GOD'S PRIORITIES ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN MY PAIN.**

God's priorities have to do with His ultimate plan for your life and for this world. It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. ¹⁶The latter do so in love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁷The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. ¹⁸But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice. Philippians 1:15-18 (NIV)

²⁷Now my soul is deeply troubled. Should I pray, 'Father, save me from what lies ahead'? But that is the very reason why I came! ²⁸Father, bring glory to your name." John 12:27-28a (NLT)(1996)

- **PERSPECTIVE #3: GOD IS FAITHFUL TO SUPPLY WHAT I NEED.**

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, ¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. ²⁰I 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. Philippians 1:18b-20 (NIV)

Deliverance = courage to get through the situation and exalt Christ.

Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vine; even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren; even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty, ¹⁸yet I will rejoice in the Lord! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation. ¹⁹The Sovereign Lord is my strength! He will make me as surefooted as a deer and bring me safely over the mountains. Habakkuk 3:17-19 (NLT)(1996)

I can do all things through him who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13 (English Standard Version)

- **PERSPECTIVE #4: GOD HAS A PURPOSE FOR MY LIFE.**

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²²If 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! ²³I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; ²⁴but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me. Philippians 1:21-26 (NIV)

Alive, I'm Christ's messenger; dead, I'm his bounty. Life versus even more life! I can't lose. As long as I'm alive in this body, there is good work for me to do. Philippians 1:21-22a (The Message)

- **APPLICATION:** Get perspective! About what issue, problem or uncertainty do you need to bring a godly perspective to restore joy to your life?