

When Life Isn't Perfect

Philippians 1:12-26

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

Take-Home Truth: The way believers experience joy in difficulties is to maintain a godly perspective in the midst of those difficulties.

#1: GOD CAN ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSES THROUGH ANY PROBLEM.

And 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)

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)

#2: GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSES ARE SOMETIMES MORE IMPORTANT THAN MY CURRENT PAIN.

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 . . . Philippians 1:15-18a (NIV)

#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)*

#4: GOD HAS A PURPOSE FOR EVERY MOMENT OF 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)*