

RE-VIEW

Weekly Devotionals

“STAY FOCUSED”

Philippians 1:12-18

Situation

Have you ever gone through a season where life was not going the way you expected, and little by little, it started draining your joy?

Not just a bad day or a small inconvenience, but real pressure. Real disappointment. Maybe even criticism. The kind of season that makes you stop and ask, “God, what are You doing?”

Those moments can be hard because they pull our attention in every direction. We start looking at our problems, our critics, our losses, and our limitations. And if we are not careful, we can lose our focus.

That is exactly where Paul is when he writes Philippians.

He is not enjoying a comfortable season. He is in prison. He is waiting to find out what will happen to him. His future is uncertain. His freedom is gone. And yet, when you read this letter, you do not hear complaining. You hear joy.

That raises a powerful question: How can a man in chains still rejoice?

Paul's answer is simple, but deep: stay focused.

- Not on the circumstances.
- Not on the critics.
- Not on yourself.
- Stay focused on Jesus and His gospel.

That is where joy is found.

Scripture

ReVisit - "And I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters, that everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News. For everyone here, including the whole palace guard, knows that I am in chains because of Christ. And because of my imprisonment, most of the believers here have gained confidence and boldly speak God's message without fear. It's true that some are preaching out of jealousy and rivalry.

But others preach about Christ with pure motives. They preach because they love me, for they know I have been appointed to defend the Good News. Those others do not have pure motives as they preach about Christ. They preach with selfish ambition, not sincerely, intending to make my chains more painful to me.

But that doesn't matter. Whether their motives are false or genuine, the message about Christ is being preached either way, so I rejoice. And I will continue to rejoice." **Philippians 1:12–18 (NLT)**

For further reflection and study, look up these supporting Scriptures:

- **Psalm 103:19**
- **Psalm 66:7**
- **Galatians 1:15**
- **Luke 1:52**
- **Psalm 4:8**
- **Galatians 1:6–10**

Truth

The main truth in this passage is simple: **joy grows when Jesus stays at the center.**

Paul was able to rejoice because he saw his life through God's eyes instead of his own. What looked like a setback was actually a step forward for the gospel.

He says, “**everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News**” (Philippians 1:12). That includes the arrest, the delay, the prison, and the uncertainty. None of it was wasted.

From a human point of view, Paul's situation looked like a loss. From God's point of view, it was part of a bigger plan. That is the beauty of God's providence. He is not absent in difficult seasons. He is working through them.

Paul's chains did not silence the gospel. They spread it. Roman guards heard the message. Other believers became bolder. What looked like restriction became opportunity.

That is often how God works. He takes what feels like a detour and uses it to move His purposes forward.

Paul also deals with another reality: not everyone preaching Christ was doing it with pure motives. Some were jealous. Some were competitive. Some wanted attention.

But Paul does not let that steal his joy. He is not ignoring the problem. He is simply refusing to let the problem become bigger than Christ.

His heart is fixed on one thing: the gospel is being preached.

That is what matters most.

He is showing us that when Christ is our focus, we do not have to be ruled by pride, comparison, or criticism. We can rejoice because Jesus is being made known.

Application

This passage gives us a simple but powerful call: **STAY FOCUSED ON JESUS.**

Paul Offers Clear Teaching To Help Us Stay Focused . . .

1: Learn To See Your Circumstances Through God's Perspective.

When life feels confusing, remember that not everything that feels like delay is actually delay. Sometimes God is advancing something you cannot yet see.

2: Keep the Gospel First in Your Daily Life. Paul cared more about Christ being known than about his own comfort. That is a challenge for all of us. It is easy to become focused on our routine, our reputation, or our preferences. But the gospel must stay at the center.

3: Remember That Your Response to Hardship Affects Other People. Paul's courage encouraged the believers around him. Your faithfulness may be strengthening someone else more than you realize.

4: Examine Your Motives. Why do you serve? Why do you give? Why do you lead? Why do you speak of the Gospel? If nobody noticed, would you still do it? That question can reveal a lot about where your heart is.

5: Finally, Choose To Rejoice When Christ Is Proclaimed. Not every messenger will have pure motives. Not every situation will be ideal. But if Christ is being lifted up, there is reason to give thanks.

This is where real joy is found—not in perfect circumstances, but in a clear focus on Jesus.

Prayer

Father,

Thank You that You are in control even when my life feels uncertain. Thank You that nothing in my life is wasted in Your hands.

Help me to stay focused on Jesus. When my circumstances feel heavy, lift my eyes to see what You are doing. When I am tempted to worry, remind me that You are still working.

Teach me to put the gospel first. Keep me from living for comfort, approval, or personal recognition. Give me a heart that cares more about Christ being known than about being noticed.

Purify my motives, Lord. Remove pride, comparison, and selfish ambition.

Make me faithful, humble, and joyful in every season.

And help me to rejoice whenever Christ is preached and honored. Let my life reflect steady confidence in You.

In Jesus' name,

Amen