

DEFINING LIFE BY PURPOSE, NOT CIRCUMSTANCES

January 31 & February 1, 2026

Philippians 1:12-30 (NLT)

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. For I know that as you pray for me and the Spirit of Jesus Christ helps me, this will lead to my deliverance.

For I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed, but that I will continue to be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past. And I trust that my life will bring honor to Christ, whether I live or die. For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better. But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ. So I really don't know which is better. I'm torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live.

Knowing this, I am convinced that I will remain alive so I can continue to help all of you grow and experience the joy of your faith. And when I come to you again, you will have even more reason to take pride in Christ Jesus because of what he is doing through me.

Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing together with one spirit and one purpose, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News. Don't be intimidated in any way by your enemies. This will be a sign to them that they are going to be destroyed, but that you are going to be saved, even by God himself. For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him. We are in this struggle together. You have seen my struggle in the past, and you know that I am still in the midst of it.

Six Keys to an ACTIVE Life of Purpose:

1

A _____ God's at work regardless of my situation.

Philippians 1:12-14 (NLT)

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Paul doesn't describe prison as a pause or a problem

– he describes it as _____.

"What looks like confinement becomes opportunity in the hands of God."

Romans 8:28-29 (NLT)

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. For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

2 Realities:

- **Even when my situation feels restrictive, I can trust God is still _____ His work in and through me.**
- **Closed doors often redirect us toward greater _____ we wouldn't have had otherwise.**

2

C _____ joy regardless of my circumstances.

Philippians 1:15-18 (NLT)

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.

Acts 16:25 (NLT)

Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening.

Romans 5:3-5 (NLT)

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

2 Realities:

- Joy grows when I focus on what _____ instead of who gets the credit.
- God's work is bigger than my preferences or _____.

3

T _____ Christ alone more than the outcomes.

Philippians 1:19-20 (NLT)

For I know that as you pray for me and the Spirit of Jesus Christ helps me, this will lead to my deliverance. For I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed, but that I will continue to be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past. And I trust that my life will bring honor to Christ, whether I live or die.

Paul's confidence was rooted in _____ being honored – regardless of the results.

Psalms 62:5-6 (NLT)

Let all that I am wait quietly before God, for my hope is in him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress where I will not be shaken.

2 Realities:

- I experience freedom when I _____ the need to control how things turn out.
- My faith grows when my hope is anchored to God's _____ rather than my personal success.

4

I _____ everything into my relationship with Christ and my life will be fulfilling in every season.

Philippians 1:21-24 (NLT)

For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better. But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ. So I really don't know which is better. I'm torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live.

Paul's purpose never _____ because of his circumstances – only his setting did.

Colossians 3:3-4 (NLT)

For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

2 Realities

- When Christ defines my life, every season is _____.
- Purpose transforms waiting, suffering, and uncertainty into _____ spaces.

Philippians 1:25-26 (NLT)

Knowing this, I am convinced that I will remain alive so I can continue to help all of you grow and experience the joy of your faith. And when I come to you again, you will have even more reason to take pride in Christ Jesus because of what he is doing through me.

Paul sees his life as a _____ for the growth and joy of others.

Ephesians 4:29 (NLT)

Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

Romans 1:11-12 (NLT)

For I long to visit you so I can bring you some spiritual gift that will help you grow strong in the Lord. When we get together, I want to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours.

2 Realities

- My _____ and perseverance matter more to others than I realize.
- One steady voice of faith can lift the _____ of an entire community.

Philippians 1:27-30 (NLT)

Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing together with one spirit and one purpose, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News. Don't be intimidated in any way by your enemies. This will be a sign to them that they are going to be destroyed, but that you are going to be saved, even by God himself. For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him. We are in this struggle together. You have seen my struggle in the past, and you know that I am still in the midst of it.

Paul calls all believers to live a life that _____ a heavenly citizenship.

1 Corinthians 16:13 (NLT)

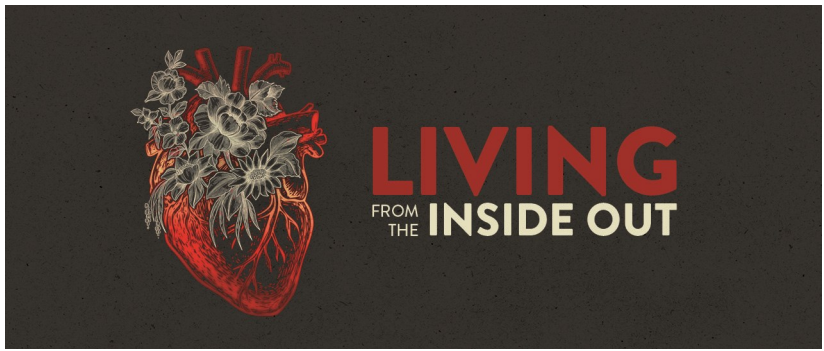
Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong.

Ephesians 6:13 (NLT)

Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.

2 Realities

- Standing firm _____ my faith and purpose in the church.
- A team that moves in _____ can withstand pressure more effectively than individuals standing alone.



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Endure hardship courageously and consistently.

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