

A New Way of Thinking about Life and Faith



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A New Way of Thinking about Life and Faith: Philippians 1:12-18a

Personalized Prayer of Philippians 1:9-11

Father, may we abound in love more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that we may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ. Fill us with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to Your glory and praise. Amen

Why are we able to rejoice with Paul?

Adversity advances the gospel! 12: *"I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel..."*

1. How? *"...so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ."*

A NEW WAY OF THINKING: GOD ALLOWS ADVERSITY SO THAT OTHERS WATCHING YOU MAY SEE CHRIST IN YOU. YOUR ADVERSITY IS NOT NECESSARILY ABOUT YOU! IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO POINT OTHERS TO CHRIST. THIS IS WHY WE REJOICE WITH PAUL!

2. How? *"And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear."*

A NEW WAY OF THINKING: GOD ALLOWS ADVERSITY IN ORDER TO IN-COURAGE AND STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH. THIS IS WHY WE REJOICE WITH PAUL!

3. How? *"Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment."*

A NEW WAY OF THINKING: GOD ALLOWS ADVERSITY IN ORDER TO CONFORM YOU MORE AND MORE INTO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST. THIS IS WHY WE REJOICE!

When adversity squeezes you, what comes out? What is your Father revealing in you?

For the moment all discipline [adversity] seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it." Hebrews 12:11

4. How? *"What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice."*

A NEW WAY OF THINKING: GOD ALLOWS ADVERSITY IN ORDER TO FOCUS OUR EYES ON THE EXALTED ONE WHO DRANK THE CUP FOR US WHEREBY CONQUERING SIN, DEATH, AND SATAN. REJOICE!

"Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God..." Hebrews 12:1b-2