

# Seeing God's Purpose in Hardship

*Finding Meaning in the Midst of Pain*

**Philippians 2:12-18**

*"Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him" Job 13:15*

*for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.*

**Philippians 2:13**

## Two Primary Reasons why God let's bad things happen.

### 1. God permits suffering to help develop our \_\_\_\_\_.

*Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,*

**Philippians 2:12**

**"Work out your salvation"  
Does NOT mean, work hard to earn heaven.**

### Eternal Life is a Free Gift

*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**Romans 6:23**

**Salvation is not just what God is going to do for you in heaven after you die.  
Salvation is what God wants to do in your life while you're alive here on the earth.**

*being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:6*

### We have a \_\_\_\_\_ in the Gospel

*In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:4-6*

**P B P W G I N F M Y**

**"Please Be Patient With me, God Is Not Finished with Me Yet."**

**Christians are to grow to maturity.**

**Growth requires continued effort and continued \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. James 1:2-4*

*Endure hardship as discipline... God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. Hebrews 12:7a, 10b-12*

## **2. God permits hardship is to enhance our \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Two Primary Reasons why God let's bad things happen.*

*so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe Philippians 2:15*

### **Three Essential Ingredients for an Effective Testimony During Hardship**

#### **1. Faithful o\_\_\_\_\_**

*Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ 2 Corinthians 9:13*

#### **2. Pleasant s\_\_\_\_\_**

*Do everything without complaining or arguing, Philippians 2:14*

*Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe Philippians 2:14-15*

#### **Pleasant spirit (and a sense of humor)**

*But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. So you too should be glad and rejoice with me. Philippians 2:17-18*

*A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones. Proverbs 17:22*

#### **Laughter helps us control p\_\_\_\_\_**

1. Distracts our attention to something else
2. Reduces the tension that we're living with
3. Changes our expectations
4. Increases the production of endorphins

#### **3. Verbal a\_\_\_\_\_**

*you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life—* **Philippians 2:15b-16a**  
*In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.* **Matthew 5:16**

**Two essentials for a \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ testimony**

- Good life
- Verbal testimony

*I can do everything through him who gives me strength.* **Philippians 4:13**

*But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,* **1 Peter 3:15**

*About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.* **Acts 16:25**

*The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!”* **Acts 16:27-28**

*The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”* **Acts 16:29-30**

*They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.”* **Acts 16:31**

*Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.* **Hebrews 12:2-3**

*Key: maturity, partnership, diligence, testimony, obedience, spirit, pain, affirmation, cutting-edge*