

MESSAGE FROM GOD'S LIFE-BUILDING WORD

When Life Goes Bad Can Actually Be Good

September 27, 2020

INTRODUCTION: Danger or Opportunity?

Philippians 1:12

Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel.

1. When life goes bad, you have an opportunity to see God at work.
 - ***Philippians 1:12 Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel.***
2. When life goes bad, you have an opportunity to influence others.
 - ***Philippians 1:13-14 ¹³ As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. ¹⁴ Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly.***
 - ***Philippians 1:15-17 ¹⁵ It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. ¹⁶ The latter do so in love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁷ The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains.***
3. When life goes bad, you have an opportunity to experience a closer walk with Christ..
 - ***Philippians 1:18a ^{18a} But 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 1:18b-19 ^{18b} Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, ¹⁹ for 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.***

CONCLUSION: The Father's Nod.

G.P.S. – GROW, PRAY, STUDY GUIDE

This week I invite you to use a spiritual habit called “Lectio Divina” (Spiritual Reading) through the verses used in today’s message.

Lectio Divina

Ruth Haley Barton, *Sacred Rhythms*, (Westmont, IL; InterVarsity Press, 2006) 59-61

Preparation/Silencio: With your eyes closed, let your body relax, and allow yourself to become consciously aware of God’s presence with you. Express your willingness to hear from God in these moments by using a brief prayer such as “Come Lord Jesus” or “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.”

Read/Lectio: Listen for the word or phrase that is addressed to you. Turn to the passage and begin to read slowly, pausing between phrases and sentences. As you read, listen for a word or phrase that strikes you or catches your attention. Allow a moment of silence, repeating that word or phrase softly to yourself, pondering it and savoring it as though pondering the word of a loved one.

- Passage to be read is:
- The word/phrase is ...

Reflect/Meditatio: How is my life touched by this word?

What is it in my life right now that needs to hear this word?

If the passage is a story, perhaps ask yourself: Where am I in this scene? What do I hear as I imagine myself in the story or hear these words addressed specifically to me? How do the dynamics of this story connect with my own life experience?

Respond/Oratio: What is my response to God based on what I have read and encountered?

Read the passage one more time, listening for your own deepest and truest response. In silence after the reading, allow your prayer to flow spontaneously from your heart as you enter a personal dialogue with God.

Rest/Contemplatio: Rest in the Word of God. In this final reading you are invited to release and return to a place of rest in God.

Resolve/Incarnatio: Incarnate (live out) the Word of God. As you emerge from this place of personal encounter with God to life in the company of others, resolve to carry this word with you and to live it out in the context of daily life and activity.

Day 1: Read/Lectio: *Philippians 1:12-19*; Phrase:

- **Reflect/Meditatio:**
- **Respond/Oratio:**
- **Rest/Contemplatio:**
- **Resolve/Incarnatio:**

Day 2: Read/Lectio: *Philippians 1:12*; Phrase:

- **Reflect/Meditatio:**
- **Respond/Oratio:**
- **Rest/Contemplatio:**
- **Resolve/Incarnatio:**

Day 3: Read/Lectio: *Philippians 1:13-14*; Phrase:

- **Reflect/Meditatio:**
- **Respond/Oratio:**
- **Rest/Contemplatio:**
- **Resolve/Incarnatio:**

Day 4: Read/Lectio: *Philippians 1:15-17*; Phrase:

- **Reflect/Meditatio:**
- **Respond/Oratio:**
- **Rest/Contemplatio:**
- **Resolve/Incarnatio:**

Day 5: Read/Lectio: *Philippians 1:18*; Phrase:

- **Reflect/Meditatio:**
- **Respond/Oratio:**
- **Rest/Contemplatio:**
- **Resolve/Incarnatio:**

Day 6: Read/Lectio: *Philippians 1:19*; Phrase:

- **Reflect/Meditatio:**
- **Respond/Oratio:**
- **Rest/Contemplatio:**
- **Resolve/Incarnatio:**

GOING DEEPER & NEXT WEEK

- **Book:** “Experience Outrageous Joy” by Charles Swindoll
- **Next Week:** Philippians 1:20-30, “Christ’s Will >?” with Pastor Richard Burkey