

“A Healthy View”

Philippians 1:18-26

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All Scripture quoted from ESV unless otherwise noted

Ever been in a situation you didn't want to be in? It's hard to rejoice in those situations

- If joy is not your default setting, you may have to go after it

A healthy view of difficult circumstances means leaning into the power of Prayer (v.19)

- Prayer is our direct line to God, who loves you and cares about the concerns of your heart

Don't deny the reality of Suffering

- Prayer acknowledges suffering but also acknowledges that God is in charge

A healthy view of difficult circumstances means relying on the Provision of the Holy Spirit (v.19)

- The Bible teaches that *“The Holy Spirit is a divine person, sent to indwell, guide, teach, empower the believer, and convince the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment.”* [John 14:15–18, John 16:13, Acts 1:8, John 16:7–11][1]

Relying on the Holy Spirit recognizes that this is not my fight; I'm in it, and I'm affected by it, but *this is a Spiritual battle*

- God does not exist like a prisoner in some cosmic, ethereal realm, unable to hear and affect the details of our lives

A healthy view of difficult circumstances means Living Courageously (v.20)

- “Eager expectation” – Literally, *“To watch with an outstretched head, with the attention concentrated on one object, and turned away from all others”*[2]

Courage is the *“Mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty.”*[3]

❖ *If you believe God will deliver you, live like it*

- Stop waiting for deliverance and start searching for the Deliverer

A healthy view of difficult circumstances means Putting Others First (v.22-25)

- *Putting others first means passing on faith to the next Spiritual Generation*
- *Putting others first means investing in their Spiritual Growth*
- *Putting others first means helping others find Joy in the Journey*

The end result of a healthy view of difficult circumstances is the logical conclusion that Jesus is awesome!

[1] <https://cmalliance.org/who-we-are/what-we-believe/statement-of-faith/>

[2] The Pulpit Commentary, volume 20, *The Epistle to the Philippians*, page 5

[3] <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/courage>

DIG IN!

Here are some farm-fresh questions that will help you to personalize and apply this morning's message.

1. *What was most surprising, unexpected, or helpful from today's passage/message? Why?*
2. *When have you seen the power of answered prayer? How does this encourage your faith?*
3. *What does it look like to approach life with the attitude of, "To live is Christ, and to die is gain?"*
4. *What does this passage say about the effect of suffering and death on the spread of the gospel message*
5. *How does the idea that death is gain argue against the notion of "soul sleep?"*
6. *Who will you call with a word of encouragement this week?*
7. **Read through the book of Philippians this week. What patterns do you notice?**
8. *What have you learned through your personal time of Bible reading this week?*