

Philippians: Living Life Above Your Circumstances

God never called Paul to be a _____. His role in ministry was that of a _____. Philippians 1:1 says, "*Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus.*" In addition, Paul walked the roads of ministry with other people. He invested his life into other God-called servants. Charles Spurgeon once said, "It's easier to build buildings than it is to build people. Nevertheless, carve your name on hearts, not marble." Can you name another person who _____ his or her life into you? Can you name another _____ that you're investing your life in?

The local church has two primary offices: _____ and _____ (Phil. 1:1). Paul's ministry was about _____ non-believers, _____ pastors and deacons, and _____ the church. Paul loved the Philippian church.

- He _____ for them (Phil. 1:3).
- He _____ the Lord for them (Phil. 1:3).
- He _____ over them (Phil. 1:4).
- He _____ them of their partnership (Phil. 1:5).
- He _____ them to rely on Christ (Phil. 1:6).

Paul always remembered God's _____ (Phil. 1:7). He lived above his _____. You and I don't see Paul having a pity-party. He knew that the Lord used his imprisonment to advance the Gospel. Prisoners heard the Gospel and "*most of the brothers*" became "*much more bold*" to proclaim Christ, too. The Bible is filled with characters that lived above their circumstances (Joseph, Job, Joshua, etc.). Living above your circumstances is a sign of _____ and a platform for _____.

Paul lived with a win/win attitude. He said, "*For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain*" (Phil. 1:21). If Paul _____ he'd be with the Lord. If he _____, he'd continue to serve the Lord. Paul wanted his brothers and sisters to know and understand the Christian life. What a believer _____ is important. How a believer _____ matters, too. Paul said, "*For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only **believe** in him but also **suffer** for his sake, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have*" (Phil. 1:29-30).

The world says that you and I are to live for "_____." However, Paul instructed God's people to put the needs of other people _____ their own. He said, "*Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interest of others*" (Phil. 2:3-4). I'm convinced that life would be different and less stressful if we lived the J.O.Y. model: _____, _____, and _____.

What are your favorite _____ of the faith? In Phil. 2:5-11, Paul shared a hymn with deep _____ significance. What truths come from this hymn?

- _____ (Phil. 2:5).
- _____ (Phil. 2:7).
- _____ (Phil. 2:8).
- _____ (Phil. 2:9).
- _____ (Phil. 2:10).
- _____ (Phil. 2:11).

The Bible has many verses that are easy to _____ but not so easy to live out. *“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you”* (Mt. 5:44). *“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you”* (1 Thess. 5:16-18). *“Do all things without grumbling or questioning”* (Phil. 2:14).

Paul’s lifestyle validated his conversion story. Zacchaeus’ life did the same (Lk. 19:1-10). Paul went from _____ the church to _____ Jesus. He confessed that nothing in life compared to knowing Jesus Christ (Phil. 3:7-11). Paul knew, too, that his journey on this earth was _____. He said, *“But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body”* (Phil. 3:20-21). How can you and I live with an _____ perspective and make the most of our days? The world tempts us to live for the here and now.

It’s possible for people in the church to break _____ with one another (Phil. 4:2-3). Jesus calls His followers to be _____ (Mt. 5:9). Paul wanted God’s people to address and resolve the strained relationship between Euodia and Syntyche. What issues need to be addressed in our day?

- Theological _____
- _____ Conflicts
- Church _____
- _____ Deficiencies
- Church _____

Many people find _____ in Philippians 4. Paul said, *“I can do all things through him who strengthens me”* (Phil. 4:13). Paul acknowledged that he’d learned how to be _____ (Phil. 4:11). Is contentment _____ or _____ for you? In Phil. 4:19, Paul said, *“And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”* Do you ever confuse _____ and _____? The world influences us to focus on wants, not needs. What happens when we chase wants instead of needs?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

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God never called Paul to be a **celebrity**. His role in ministry was that of a **servant**. Philippians 1:1 says, "*Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus.*" In addition, Paul walked the roads of ministry with other people. He invested his life into other God-called servants. Charles Spurgeon once said, "It's easier to build buildings than it is to build people. Nevertheless, carve your name on hearts, not marble." Can you name another person who **invested** his or her life into you? Can you name another **person** that you're investing your life in?

The local church has two primary offices: **overseers** and **deacons** (Phil. 1:1). Paul's ministry was about **evangelizing** non-believers, **encouraging** pastors and deacons, and **edifying** the church. Paul loved the Philippian church.

- He **prayed** for them (Phil. 1:3).
- He **thanked** the Lord for them (Phil. 1:3).
- He **rejoiced** over them (Phil. 1:4).
- He **reminded** them of their partnership (Phil. 1:5).
- He **encouraged** them to rely on Christ (Phil. 1:6).

Paul always remembered God's **grace** (Phil. 1:7). He lived above his **circumstances**. You and I don't see Paul having a pity-party. He knew that the Lord used his imprisonment to advance the Gospel. Prisoners heard the Gospel and "*most of the brothers*" became "*much more bold*" to proclaim Christ, too. The Bible is filled with characters that lived above their circumstances (Joseph, Job, Joshua, etc.). Living above your circumstances is a sign of **maturity** and a platform for **ministry**.

Paul lived with a win/win attitude. He said, "*For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain*" (Phil. 1:21). If Paul **died**, he'd be with the Lord. If he **lived**, he'd continue to serve the Lord. Paul wanted his brothers and sisters to know and understand the Christian life. What a believer **believes** is important. How a believer **lives** matters, too. Paul said, "*For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have*" (Phil. 1:29-30).

The world says that you and I are to live for "**self**." However, Paul instructed God's people to put the needs of other people **before** their own. He said, "*Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interest of others*" (Phil. 2:3-4). I'm convinced that life would be different and less stressful if we lived the J.O.Y. model: **Jesus**, **Others**, and **Yourself**.

What are your favorite **hymns** of the faith? In Phil. 2:5-11, Paul shared a hymn with deep **theological** significance. What truths come from this hymn?

- **Attitude** (Phil. 2:5).
- **Servant** (Phil. 2:7).
- **Cross** (Phil. 2:8).
- **Exalted** (Phil. 2:9).
- **Surrender** (Phil. 2:10).
- **Confession** (Phil. 2:11).

The Bible has many verses that are easy to **quote** but not so easy to live out. “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” (Mt. 5:44). “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thess. 5:16-18). “Do all things without grumbling or questioning” (Phil. 2:14).

Paul’s lifestyle validated his conversion story. Zacchaeus’ life did the same (Lk. 19:1-10). Paul went from **persecuting** the church to **servicing** Jesus. He confessed that nothing in life compared to knowing Jesus Christ (Phil. 3:7-11). Paul knew, too, that his journey on this earth was **temporary**. He said, “But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body” (Phil. 3:20-21). How can you and I live with an **eternal** perspective and make the most of our days? The world tempts us to live for the here and now.

It’s possible for people in the church to break **fellowship** with one another (Phil. 4:2-3). Jesus calls His followers to be **peacemakers** (Mt. 5:9). Paul wanted God’s people to address and resolve the strained relationship between Euodia and Syntyche. What issues need to be addressed in our day?

- Theological **Differences**
- **Relational** Conflicts
- Church **Divisions**
- **Leadership** Deficiencies
- Church **Bullies**

Many people find **hope** in Philippians 4. Paul said, “I can do all things through him who strengthens me” (Phil. 4:13). Paul acknowledged that he’d learned how to be **content** (Phil. 4:11). Is contentment **easy** or **hard** for you? In Phil. 4:19, Paul said, “And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” Do you ever confuse **needs** and **wants**? The world influences us to focus on wants, not needs. What happens when we chase wants instead of needs?

- **Discontentment**
- **Debt**
- **Division**
- **Danger**
- **Distance**