



SERIES: Philippians (May / June)

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Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Scripture: Philippians 1:18b-19

TITLE: Confidence In the Trial

When trials abound, how do you pray? Do you pray for rescue? Do you pray for deliverance? Do you pray for a way out? The apostle Paul was no stranger to hardship, but he viewed his trials as a reason to rejoice. That's why he could be confident for God to deliver him. The question is, deliver him to what? That's what we want to understand, as we turn back to Philippians Chapter 1, beginning at the end of verse 18:

And I will continue to rejoice. ¹⁹ For I know that as you pray for me and the Spirit of Jesus Christ helps me, this will lead to my deliverance. (Phil.1:18b-19, NLT)

Paul is writing to his Philippian brothers and sisters. He cares greatly for them. Amazingly, while waiting in house arrest in chains, and watching the Gospel spread from would-be contentious evangelists, Paul says, "And I will continue to rejoice." Paul's perspective is not focused on the trials, but on the One who controls the universe.

Paul says, "Yep, all these things are happening, but still I rejoice. I am content and at peace." And then he continues, "for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance." Paul had confidence in the prayers of the saints, confidence in the provision of the Spirit, and the faithfulness of the Lord.

Paul here is actually quoting Job 13. Like Job, who faced immense suffering, Paul knew that God would one day deliver him both from his physical afflictions and from false accusations. Paul wasn't suffering because of sin, but because of his faithfulness. The cost of discipleship is high. Job knew it. Paul knew it. I know it. Paul wasn't saying that he knew his chains would be loosened, and he would go free. He was saying that according to verse 20, whether by life or death, deliverance – Salvation - was his. Death has no victory over the believer. Suffering has no lasting sting for the saint. In that, there is great hope and deliverance. So, Paul was confident in God's faithfulness.

But he was also confident in the prayers of the saints. James aid that the prayers of a righteous person, in other words, a Christ-follower, can accomplish much. They are effective prayers, because they are from God's children to His attentive ears. We have the privilege to pray for each other. We should and do so often here.

And Paul was confident in the provision of the Spirit. Paul uses a word here that means more so than just help; it means full and sufficient provision for what you need. Jesus said in Matthew 10,

don't worry about what you are to say, or how to say it, for the Spirit speaks in you. The Spirit provides the essential fruit for you to live each day successfully – no matter the trial, hardship, or opportunity. Paul had confidence, and so should you.

So here's my challenge for you today: be confident in God's faithfulness to provide what you need through your trials. God never promises to deliver you from the trial, but He will deliver you through it, to an ultimate future of hope and peace. So, rest in that confidence.

And if you need prayer, we, as the people of God, will pray on your behalf. Post your requests below, and let us pray for you. God's deliverance is sure. Rest in it, and when you do, you will surely win the day.