

DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES

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Four keys to finding joy in difficult circumstances ...

I. I NEED A _____ TO LIVE FROM.

PHILIPPIANS 1:12 NIV84 Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel.

A. Can you find “_____” in your circumstances?

PHILIPPIANS 1:13-14 NIV84 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.

B. How _____ is your God?

ROMANS 8:28 NIV84 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

C. Application #1: Ask God to _____ your bad circumstances for good!

II. I NEED A _____ TO LIVE BY.

PHILIPPIANS 1:15 NIV84 It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill.

PHILIPPIANS 1:16-17 NIV84 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.

A. Need to understand what's _____ important.

PHILIPPIANS 1:18 NIV84 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.

B. Application #2: Forgive someone who has _____ you.

III. I NEED A _____ TO LIVE ON.

A. Hope produces _____.

PHILIPPIANS 1:19 NIV84 Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, 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.

B. Faith produces _____.

PHILIPPIANS 1:20 NIV84 I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

C. Application #3: Do something good that takes faith and is ... _____.

IV. I NEED A _____ TO LIVE FOR.

PHILIPPIANS 1:21-23 NIV84 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 22 If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know!

23 I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; 24 but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.

A. Paul's purpose: _____!

PHILIPPIANS 1:25-26 NIV84 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, 26 so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me.

B. Fill in blank: “For me, to live is: _____.”

The secret of J.O.Y. -- JESUS first, OTHERS second, YOURSELF third.

C. Application #4: Give some time or money to meet someone's _____ this week.