

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church Bible Study

Joy Under Pressure – **When Bad Things Happen**

Philippians 1: 12 -30

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READ PHILIPPIANS 1: 12 – 20

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1. What happened to Paul before beginning to write this letter?
2. What resulted from Paul being placed into prison?
3. If you were Paul (the man, not the apostle of Christ) how would you feel right now? What did Paul know was the result of this imprisonment?
4. Nevertheless, what was the important thing as far as Paul was concerned?
5. For what two reasons will Paul continue to rejoice while he was held in prison?



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**REFLECTIONS -- BEST ANSWER**

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TROUBLE AND SUFFERING

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1. \_\_\_\_\_ Are a necessary part of entering the kingdom of God.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ can be avoided if we are faithful to Jesus on this earth.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ are always greatest on this earth for those who do not love God.

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OUR COMFORT IN TIME OF TROUBLE SHOULD BE

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4. \_\_\_\_\_ that we are only getting what we deserve.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ that many others must suffer along with us.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ that after we go to heaven all earthly sorrows will be over.

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THE “EVIL” FROM WHICH WE PRAY TO BE DELIVERED IN THE 7<sup>TH</sup> PETITION

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7. \_\_\_\_\_ is only the spiritual evil which lurks within our souls.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ is all evil of body and soul, property and honor.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ is only the physical evil, which can harm our bodies.

# EVIL

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graph TD; A[EVIL] --> B["The Work of Satan"]; A --> C["God"]; B --> D["Seventh Petition"]; C --> D; D --> E["Bring us safely through the many hardships of life to our heavenly home!"];
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## The Work of Satan

The result of sin

The origin of pain

- suffering
- sickness
- natural disasters
- hurtful actions
- false teaching
- spiritual danger

## God

Keeps it from us

Permits it to come but

- uses it for our good
- uses it to discipline us
- uses it to lead us to repentance
- helps us bear it

Delivers us from it completely in heaven

## Seventh Petition

**“Bring us safely through the many hardships of life to our heavenly home!”**

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## You Are There

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It's June 2020. You are living in the middle of a global pandemic. Communities can't decide to make some rules, keep some rules or throw out some rules for the next best safe steps. We are separated from loved ones. Our economy is limping or maybe crawling back to normal. List 5 evils/problems/challenges for which you personally need God's help. The list how you want God to help you.

CHALLENGE	HELP YOU ARE REQUESTING FROM GOD

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### WRITE A PRAYER FOR A SOMEONE ELSE

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Write a prayer asking God to deliver someone you know from an evil that is attacking their body, soul, property or reputation. Also ask that this person be able to see "the silver lining" in the "dark cloud" that is bothering them.

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### WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO TODAY?

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Who do you know that is suffering because of his/her faith? What can you do today to encourage that person?

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## Theology of the Cross

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If God is on the side of Christians, shouldn't Christians have trouble-free lives? It can be tempting to wish for that – how wonderful it would be to have lives free from pain or sorrow, lives of glory!

We look forward to that kind of life in eternity. But life is different here. Jesus told us that as we follow him on this earth, we can expect to share his cross. We can expect to have troubles and hardships even *because* we are Christians. So does that mean that God doesn't love us? Not at all. Remember, God accomplished our salvation through the suffering of his Son, God has promised to bring blessing through our sufferings too.

God's ultimate purpose for the crosses we endure in life is to turn us back to Christ's cross and the promises of his unfailing love and sure deliverance. While we are here on earth, God strengthens us through the gospel. At life's end, when our work on earth is finished, God promises to take us from this world of sorrow and trouble to heaven. To God be the glory!

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## ENCOURAGEMENT FROM SCRIPTURE

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What is our Christian Response as we see the evil (bad things) happening in the world that hurt us, our family and friends?

**2 Corinthians 12:9** – He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

**Psalm 94:17-19** - Unless the Lord had given me help, I would have soon dwelt in the silence of death. When I said, “My foot is slipping,” your unfailing love, Lord, supported me. When anxiety was great within me, your consolation BROUGHT ME JOY.

**1 Peter 5:10** - The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

**2 Thessalonians 3:3** - The Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.

**Matthew 5:11-12** – Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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**When our father in heaven allows evil to touch our lives, he strengthens us and encourages us so that we can bear the evil.**