

*“Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”* Philippians 3:13-14 (NIV)

**LESSON: JESUS FIRST; OTHERS SECOND; YOU THIRD**



## **“How To Be Joyful No Matter What”**

Philippians 1:12-26 (NIV)

### **THE FOUR ESSENTIALS FOR JOYFUL LIVING**

#### **I. I need a perspective TO LIVE FROM**

*Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters<sup>1</sup> that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. <sup>13</sup> As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. <sup>14</sup> And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.*

Philippians 1:12-14 (NIV)

**When I face problems joyfully:**

- It is a testimony to UNBELIEVERS
- It is an encouragement to BELIEVERS

*“For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.”* Philippians 4:13 (NLT)

**LESSON: God has a PURPOSE behind all my PROBLEMS.**

## II. I need a priority TO LIVE BY.

*“It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. <sup>16</sup> The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. <sup>17</sup> The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. <sup>18</sup> 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. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice.”*  
Philippians 1:15-18

*“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”*  
Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

*“In everything you do, put God first, and He will direct you and crown your efforts with success.”*  
Proverbs 3:6 (LB)

**LESSON: Focus on what REALLY COUNTS**

## III. I need a power TO LIVE ON

*“For I know that through your prayers and God’s provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. <sup>20</sup> 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.”* Philippians 1:19-20

*Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.”*  
Matthew 11:28 (NLT)

**LESSON: With God’s power NOTHING can devastate me.**

## IV. I need a purpose TO LIVE FOR

*“For I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed, but that I will continue to be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past. And I trust that my life will bring honor to Christ, whether I live or die. <sup>21</sup> For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better. <sup>22</sup> But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ. So I really don’t know which is better. <sup>23</sup> I’m torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. <sup>24</sup> But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live. <sup>25</sup> Knowing this, I am convinced that I will remain alive so I can continue to help all of you grow and experience the joy of your faith. <sup>26</sup> And when I come to you again, you will have even more reason to take pride in Christ Jesus because of what he is doing through me.”*  
Philippians 1:20-26 (NLT)