

# THE DISCIPLINES OF LIFE SERIES

DEVELOPING A LIFESTYLE THAT'S USABLE TO GOD

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

## THE DISCIPLINE OF **DISABILITY**

*A PRACTICAL SERIES ON CHRISTIAN DISCIPLINES  
AND HOW WE SHOULD BE LIVING IN THE WORLD AROUND US*

Week 19 of a 31 Week Series

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**Christianity 101, Faith, Wisdom, Discipleship**

Introduction to the Text; **Philippians 1:12-14**

**The Theme and Textual Summation of the Passage**

# THE DISCIPLINES OF LIFE SERIES

DEVELOPING A SPIRITUAL LIFESTYLE THAT'S USABLE TO GOD

### Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "**All authority** has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **:19 Go therefore and make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **:20 teaching them to observe all things** that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the world."

### Philippians 1:12-14

But I want you to know, brethren, that the things *which happened* to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, **:13** so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; **:14** and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

**Disabilities can come in some pretty obvious forms,** some come in less visible forms, but by and large – disabilities handicap us mostly from the inside out.

THE DISCIPLINE OF DISABILITY  
DEVELOPING A LIFESTYLE THAT'S USABLE TO GOD

**1.) Disabilities are anything but common to us**

**Philippians 1:12-14**

But **I want you to know**, brethren, that **the things which happened to me** have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel...

**DISABILITIES ARE ANYTHING BUT COMMON**

**1a.) There's something to be said: The Experience**

**Verses 12a**

"But **I want you to know**, brethren"  
(Fellow Christians)

**know** / ginwčskw ginosko, ghin-ocē'-ko

Have this announced, resolved, or to be aware of, understand it.  
( *make this the common thought – difficulties will be had* )

**Your Witness is Your Testimony**

A Testimony is Your Story, Your "God-Story"

**Your Life's Experience is for Now**

**Luke 21:12**

But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake. **:13** But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony.

## DISABILITIES ARE ANYTHING BUT COMMON

1b.) There's something **to be learned**: The Situation

**Philippians 1:12**  
that the **things** which **happened** to me...

**Challenges** and **Urgencies** Bring Out What's  
Inside

What About **My Disability** and How Does it **Factor**  
into **My Situation** of Life?

**Philippians 4:11**  
...for I have learned, in whatsoever state (including California)  
I am, therewith to be content.

## DISABILITIES ARE ANYTHING BUT COMMON

1c.) There's something **to be known**: The Purpose

**God's Timetable is Not Ours**

**2 Peter 3:8**  
But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a  
thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

What about the seconds, the minutes and hours

**For 400+ years Israel was in Slavery Like no Other  
People Group in History. And the Lord was right on time -**

**Exodus 13:16**  
"...for by strength of hand the LORD brought us forth **out of Egypt**.

THE DISCIPLINE OF DISABILITY  
DEVELOPING A LIFESTYLE THAT'S USABLE TO GOD

**2.) Disabilities become power tools to God**

**Philippians 1:13**

so that it has become **evident** to the whole **palace guard**,  
and to **all the rest**, - - - that my chains are **in Christ**;

How in the world can a man who's a public preacher, an evangelist,  
a mover and shaker in the kingdom of God be locked up in a  
Roman jailhouse ?

**DISABILITIES BECOME POWER TOOLS**

**2a.) When God goes to work – people will know**

**Philippians 1:13**

so that it has become **evident**

**Evident** fanero/β phaneros, *fan-er-os'*; to shine or to blaze. to spread around  
or to move quickly.

**THE LORD USES STRANGE THINGS**

(be honest, don't you feel totally unworthy to be used by God - - I do ?)

**WHAT MOVED QUICKLY?**

**THE NEWS THAT PAUL WAS IN JAIL & FOUND GUILTY OF  
BEING A CHRISTIAN.**

**JESUS CHRIST WAS USING PAUL'S ARREST  
TO ADVANCE THE MESSAGE OF THE KINGDOM**

**Galatians 6:17**

From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body  
the marks of the Lord Jesus.

**Philippians 1:20-21**

For I live in eager expectation and hope that I will never do anything that causes me shame, but that I will always be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past, and that my life will always honor Christ, whether I live or I die. :21 For to me, living is for Christ, and dying is even better.

**DISABILITIES BECOME POWER TOOLS**

**2b.) When God goes to work – people will be effected it**

**Philippians 1:13**

so that it has become evident to the **whole palace guard**,

**You Can't Just Walk Into The Presence of the Palace Guard.**

(That would be like trying to witness to the U.S. Secret Service)

**Philippians 4:11-13**

Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: :12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. :13 **I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.**

**Philippians 4:13**

**I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.**

**I saw an example last night at the store.**

*A young woman with a pretty serious disability in her leg could hardly walk. She certainly had to work at it – she walked across the parking lot to return her cart to the cart-thing.*

Think about what all these people around you know  
About themselves or others who are hurting

**1 Corinthians 4:9-13**

For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to

men. :10 We *are* fools for Christ's sake, but you *are* wise in Christ! We *are* weak, but you *are* strong! You *are* distinguished, but we *are* dishonored! :11 To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless. :12 And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; :13 being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now.

## DISABILITIES BECOME POWER TOOLS

2c.) When God goes to work – people will be encouraged

### Philippians 1:13

so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, - - - that **my chains are in Christ**;

Paul is speaking here about the “Reason” or the “Explanation” as to why he’s in jail – Paul started a “I.J.F.J” ministry  
( *In Jail For Jesus* )

Because what we see as impossible – God gets done without effort.

### 2 Corinthians 12:8-10

Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. :9 And He said to me, “**My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.**” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. :10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

When we take the time to “make friends” and to become “involved” in one another's lives – ***we are being like Jesus***

### 2 Timothy 4:6-8

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. :7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. :8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

# You Have A Mighty Friend In Heaven Tonight

## Romans 8:26-28

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. :27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. :28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

## THE DISCIPLINE OF DISABILITY

DEVELOPING A LIFESTYLE THAT'S USABLE TO GOD

### 3.) Disabilities will cause us to become dependant

## Philippians 1:14

Now most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

It's the **discipline of disability;**  
**becoming dependant is our greatest**  
**strength.**

(Pastor Jack - you're nuts, just wait my friend, just wait)

**Why? Because the survivability rate is much higher among those who follow Jesus Christ.** - - it's much safer to stay closer to Jesus than to be at a distance.

## DISABILITIES CAUSE US TO BE DEPENDANT

### 3a.) We're unable to provide for ourselves

## Joseph, the Prince of Egypt

Was deceived, captured, and sold into slavery by his own brothers.

## Joseph Did What He Knew Was Right

“I can’t think of anyone who has suffered a more prolonged isolation and false accusations than Joseph.”

1. Sold into Slavery in **Genesis 37**
2. Lied about and Imprisoned in **Genesis 39**
3. Forgotten in Prison to Rot in **Genesis 40**

But From **Chapter 41** on he was elevated and blessed and made the most powerful man in the world – second only to Pharaoh himself.

### Listen To Joseph in His Own Words Genesis 45:5-8

But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. :6 For these two years the famine *has been* in the land, and *there are* still five years in which *there will be* neither plowing nor harvesting. :7 And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. :8 So now *it was* not you *who* sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

**Job**, the “Why do Bad Things Happen to Good People” Guy

## Job Did Nothing To Bring It Upon Himself

### Job 42:10-13

And the LORD restored Job’s losses... :11 Then all his brothers, all his sisters, and all those who had been his acquaintances before, came to him and ate food with him in his house... :12 Now the LORD blessed the latter *days* of Job more than his beginning; for he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand female donkeys. :13 He also had seven sons and three daughters.

**James 5:11**

Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

**Jonah, God's Disobedient Prophet**

**Jonah 1:3-4**

But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.  
:4 But the LORD sent out a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up.

**Jonah Goofed Himself Up**

**Tonight, You May Be Like Jonah**

Knowing the Will of God but not Willing to Do It

**DISABILITIES CAUSE US TO BE DEPENDANT**

**3b.) We're unable to protect ourselves**

**Psalm 103:14**

For He knows our frame; He remembers that we *are* dust.

**Acts 1:8**

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

**Out There In The Foyer is a Seven-Lamp Stand Menorah**

**Zechariah 4:6**

So he answered and said to me: “This *is* the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ Says the LORD of hosts.

## DISABILITIES CAUSE US TO BE DEPENDANT

3c.) We're **unable** to **promote ourselves**

**Philippians 1:14c**

they are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

This "Without Fear" is being "**Fearless of Man**"

**Proverbs 29:25**

The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the LORD shall be **safe**. (exalted, bold, fearless)

**Are we willing to  
"Place Ourselves in Harms Way for Jesus Christ?"**

**Are we wiling to  
become less so that He can become more In the lives of those  
we know and meet?**

**Proverbs 28:1**

The wicked flee when no one pursues, But the righteous are bold as a lion.

THE DISCIPLINE OF DISABILITY

**You Need Boldness My Friend – Tonight !!!**

*End of Study*