

Circumstances, Faith and Answered Prayer

The hope in the struggles of life is not just that Heaven is coming for us. The hope in the struggles of life is also found as we embrace a God-focused and God-character-trusting view of those struggles.

Scripture(s): Romans 15:22-33

Remember this - When our good plans seem to fail, faith keeps trusting God's _____ plans.

4 declarations Paul makes about visiting Rome.

1. Paul planned to go to Rome and then to _____ as his next missionary journey.
2. The churches of the regions of Macedonia had taken up an _____ to help those suffering in the church of Jerusalem.
3. Paul knew that he would face opposition as he traveled back _____.
4. What Paul hoped that God would do, was _____ what God did.

I. The first observation about Paul's trust in God's care over his everyday choices is past disappointments did not discourage from new _____ adventures. Since every Christian faces setbacks, we must decide ahead of time if setbacks today will keep us from _____ tomorrow.

II. The second observation about Paul's trust in God's care over his everyday choices is memories of hardship did not diminish appreciation for the _____ of God. Cynicism (or realism) that cannot see what God is doing in the midst of struggle _____ faith.

2 Corinthians 9:1-5 ... 3 But I have sent the brethren, in order that our boasting about you may not be made empty in this case, so that, as I was saying, you may be prepared; 4 otherwise if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we—not to speak of you—will be put to shame by this confidence....

III. The third observation about Paul's trust in God's care over his everyday choices is God's negative answer did not shake his understanding of God's _____ or promises. We live and view life through the _____ and promises of Jesus, not our circumstances.

Acts 28:23 When they had set a day for Paul, they came to him at his lodging in large numbers; and he was explaining to them by solemnly testifying about the kingdom of God and trying to persuade them concerning Jesus, from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, from morning until evening.

Acts 28:30-31 30 And he stayed two full years in his own rented quarters and was welcoming all who came to him, 31 preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered.

Philippians 1:12-14 12 Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel, 13 so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else...

Our challenge - Develop a heart that finds its _____ in the character and promises of Jesus.

1. Is there any new way that you are saying _____ to Jesus?
2. Is there a cynicism about the work of God or His work in others that you need to _____ of?
3. Which promise or which part of Christ's character helps you _____ life?

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"Shout to the Lord"

"This Is Amazing Grace"

"The Bond of Love" 384

* Pastoral Prayer & Time in the Word *

"Let Jesus Come Into Your Heart" 311