

# God is involved in all of our Circumstances

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# Introduction

Have you had something happen to you? (Good, bad, exciting, etc.)

Could you hardly wait to tell someone?

What is the usual response from others?



# Putting it into Perspective

Paul firmly believed that the things that happened to him were permitted by God's divine purpose.

Paul states from knowing God, that things happened **to** him in order that God would bring changes **in** Paul.

Ephesians 2:10



# Circumstances of Paul

Philippians 1:13

Paul talks about “my bonds,” chained to a prison wall. His chains held him in many ways. Physically, emotionally, and spiritually.



# The Purpose

He regarded his chains as though God sent them full of purpose.

First: He was learning how to respond to delay.

Second: He was learning about discomfort.



# Disappointments

Paul saw disappointments as God's appointments.

When things don't work out the way we plan, or at all, disappointment can result.

# God isn't Finished

Paul seemed to have a clear picture of what God was doing with delays, discomforts, and disappointments.

But there was something else happening **to** him. Something God wanted to do **in** him.

Philippians 1:15-17

Paul's aim was to glorify Christ and get people to follow Christ.

Col. 3:17

But he faced "contention," (see verse 16).





# Unsuspected Opposition

Paul was not accustomed to having teammates who opposed him.

Paul needed prayer, love, and support. Instead, he was hated. While new converts were choosing sides, Paul was imprisoned.

God was at work in Paul's life. Paul was swamped by problems and overwhelmed by difficulties.

But to get overwhelming problems into perspective, it takes the work of the Holy Spirit in your life.

# Handling Problems

One could worship problems.

One could ignore them.

One could pretend they don't have any.

The correct perspective comes through acknowledging God as the authorizer of problems, but not the causer of them. He has a lovingly designed plan to lead you into a deeper knowledge of God and usefulness.

Proverbs 3:5-6



What was Paul learning?

Paul was running Paul's life, not God.

We can pray and share God's word. God will do the rest.

I do not impact. God impacts.

# What are we this morning?

We are Christians who have been made complete in Christ. Forgiven, redeemed, made spiritually alive. We are as righteous as Jesus and totally accepted.

Are we perfectly mature?      NO!!!!

We are under construction.

Philippians 1:6