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### 3. God's Power, Not Your Power

*Phil. 1:19 ...Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.*

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### 4. Pleasing God, not Pleasing Yourself

*Phil. 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.*

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Key: pg.1: anticipation; acceptance; purpose; Pg. 3: Priorities  
Pg. 4: Power; Pleasing.

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## Finding Purpose in Hard Times

Philippians: Finding Joy in Hard Times

Phil. 1:12-21; September 30, 2018

Emptiness—>Thirst—>Hope—>joy of a \_\_\_\_\_.

Brokenness—>Grace—>Gratitude—>Joy of a \_\_\_\_\_  
and p \_\_\_\_\_.

### Focus on...

#### 1. God's Purposes More Than Your Problems

*Philippians. 1:12 Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel.*

“There will be no major solution to the suffering of mankind until we reach some understanding of who we are, what the purpose of Creation was, and what happens after death.” -- Woody Allen

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Why do we go through hard times? This is NOT an exhaustive list:

- Correct you. Job 5:17-18
  - Change you. Isaiah 48:10-11
  - Challenge you to be like Christ. John 15
  - Call others. Phil. 1:12-18
  - Comfort others. 2 Cor. 1:3-11
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*Phil. 1:13 As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.*

■

*Phil. 1:14 Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly.*

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*Isaiah 46:10 I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please. From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose. What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned, that will I do.*

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## 2. God's Priorities More Than Your Prestige

*Phil. 1:15 It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of good will.*

■ *Phil. 1:17 (Some) preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains.* ■

■ “Nine-tenths of our suffering is caused by others not thinking so much of us as we think they ought.” M. Lyon ■

How does Paul respond to his critics?

■ *Phil. 1:18 But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached...* ■

■ His response? ■

*Philippians 1:18c ...And because of this I rejoice.*

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