

# Hallelujah Anyway, Part 2

Pastor Steve Berger March 15, 2015

## Review of Introduction to the Book of Philippians

- Philippians, Acts 16
  - Paul has **Hallelujah Anyway** attitude; God is good no matter what; I'm His, He's mine, forever!
- Bondservant
  - out of love for Master, a bondservant willingly relinquishes all rights and privileges in order to stay with Him and do His will
  - we are called to be bondservants **NOT** just believers — important foundational point

## Bitterness

- Tough times make you bitter or better
- Bitter — unpleasant, harsh, negative, poisonous, violent

## Paul warns against bitterness

- Ephesians 4:31 — put all bitterness away from you
- Hebrews 12:15 — bitterness causes trouble and defiles people

**Paul and the Philippians allowed themselves to be made BETTER by the tough circumstances they experienced and observed.**

*A serious indicator of a **Hallelujah Anyway** faith is **how you treat people during or after tough times.***

## Paul's Hallelujah Anyway Life: all said in writing — not just thought

### He's a Blessor

- Philippians 1:2 — grace and peace to you

**Stating fact and blessing, Grace-divine enabling, Peace-divine contentment, STILL!**

### He's Thankful

- Philippians 1:3

**Being thankful in all things, for all things, is a clear indicator of a bitter-less *Hallelujah Anyway* faith — key to freedom from bitterness.**

### He's Prayerful

- Philippians 1:4

**Remaining prayerful when some prayers aren't being answered the way or in the timing you want is another clear indicator of a *Hallelujah Anyway* faith. Paul not only doesn't quit praying — he tells the Thessalonians, "Pray without ceasing." | Thessalonians 5:17**

## He's Joyful

- Philippians 1:4
- Joy and rejoicing in tough times is the theme of Philippians. He mentions it once every 7 verses
- 2 Corinthians 7:4 — exceedingly joyful in all our tribulation

**Paul's Hallelujah Anyway faith refused to let tribulation and tough times steal his joy!**

## He's Affirming

- Philippians 1:6

**By being confident of God finishing the good work in them that He started, He's affirming their own spiritual success in the future.**

*Q. What might happen in people's lives if we started affirming the faithfulness of God to them?*

*A. They start believing in the preserving and prevailing grace of God themselves; they'll develop their own Hallelujah Anyway faith.*

## He's A Right Thinker

- Philippians 1:7

**It's right for Paul to think and be this way toward them because he has them in his heart, he loves them.**

*Loving people causes you to think right thoughts toward them — thoughts that align with God's will and character, blessing, gratitude, prayer, joy, affirmation, etc.*

**Paul thinks right because he loves right — may we pursue the same grace.**

*Conversely —not loving people causes you to think wrong thoughts, hatred, jealousy, suspicion, hopelessness, etc.*

## He's Affectionate

- Philippians 1:8

**Paul longs for the Philippians with the affection and love of Jesus.**

*The love of Jesus for God's people neither ran out, nor grew cold in the dank darkness of Paul's prison cell. The love of Jesus through Paul shined brightly, and affectionately warmed every heart it came in contact with. That's a Hallelujah Anyway faith.*

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## How the Philippians got Better and not Bitter

**They had a Hallelujah Anyway partnership with Paul from the beginning to the end**

- Philippians 1:5,7

**They didn't let the reproach of Paul's chains and imprisonment keep them from standing with him.**

**They didn't let the trials and tribulations God allowed Paul to suffer to cause their own faith in God or support of Paul to waver — ever!  
They were partakers together of the grace of God, regardless of how it looked.**

## They cared for him and shared in his distress

- Philippians 4:10,14

**They entered into the fellowship of Paul's suffering, caring, feeling, standing, loving. God used that love and care to strengthen Paul's resolve to finish well.**

## They repeatedly supported Paul financially when no one else did

- Philippians 4:15-16

**Their support of Paul was unique and repeated —  
God may we support like that!**

***BOTTOM LINE** — We see that a major indicator of having a **Hallelujah Anyway** faith is seen in how you treat people in the midst of troublesome times.*

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## **A Hallelujah Anyway faith —**

**blesses others  
                  is thankful for them  
                  prays for them  
                  is joyful for them  
                  affirms them  
                  thinks rightly of them  
                  is affectionate toward them  
                  is faithfully committed to them  
                  cares and shares in their distresses  
                  and supports them in good times and bad**

**A Hallelujah Anyway faith is proof you've been made better and not bitter.**

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## **Discussion Questions**

1. Why is bitterness so dangerous to a believer?
2. The key to freedom from bitterness can be found in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, and Ephesians 5:20. Is using this key realistic?
3. How can you continue to pray — when a prayer is not being answered in the way or in the timing you want?
4. Even if times are tough in your life, how does reading Philippians 1 help you pray for others with joy?
5. Read Philippians 1:6. How do you accept this statement of affirmation of your spiritual success in the future?
6. Is there anyone in your life who needs affirmation of the faithfulness of God? Take time to tell them.
7. What does it mean that Paul is a "right thinker"? Philippians 1:7
8. Respond to the statement, "A major indicator of having a **Hallelujah Anyway** faith is seen in how you treat people in the midst of troublesome times."
9. Is this study challenging the way you view your financial giving?
10. Read the last statement of the outline together — "A Hallelujah Anyway faith —"

**Click on "House of Prayer" on [www.gracechapel.net](http://www.gracechapel.net) to fill out a prayer request.  
We will pray for requests for one month during our weekly prayer meetings.  
See you this Tuesday, March 17, at 6:30 p.m.!**