

Hallelujah Anyway, Part 4

Pastor Steve Berger April 12, 2015

Hallelujah Anyway

...having a faith that no matter what happens in your life, you continue to trust and praise God, knowing that God, and no circumstance, has the final word over you!

This is how Paul lives, this is how he encourages us to live! He is wrongfully imprisoned for the gospel, yet rejoicing, showing us how to live our own Hallelujah Anyway life while **suffering** and **being persecuted**.

Suffering — and some of the awesome things it can produce!

I. God uses suffering in our lives to make Jesus known through our lives!

- Philippians 1:12-18
 - Paul's chains and imprisonments **furthered** the gospel
 - the whole palace guard knew chains were for preaching Jesus
 - all the rest — who were these saints?
 - Philippians 4:22 — Caesar's household

Your faithful suffering might just be the open door for someone else's faith!

- the way to the guards was to chain Paul to them
- the way into Caesar's house was to rotate the guards from Paul into Caesar's house
- you never know how God might be using your suffering to reach others

Remember — bondservant... ...*"I willingly, voluntarily, surrender my rights to my life, out of love for my Master and His house, I am His servant forever, to do His will, no matter what that costs me."*

**Will you allow your misery to become your ministry?
Will you be a bondservant with a Hallelujah Anyway faith
that God can use to reach lost people for Jesus?**

2. God uses suffering through our lives to bring **confidence**, **boldness**, and **fearlessness** to other believers — not just the lost

- **most** of the brethren became confident, much more bold, and speaking the word without fear

**When God trusts you with suffering,
it's to show others that they can suffer faithfully too,
not losing their faith, but living a Hallelujah Anyway life!**

- Job 1:8 — the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job?"

**God trusted Job with unreal suffering,
and Job's faithful suffering has encouraged
believers for thousands of years!**

Important — *suffering is so personal — and yet we must look beyond ourselves to those who need strength and encouragement through our faithful suffering.*

- 2 Corinthians 4:6-12
 - God commanded light out of darkness, life out of death

Light can and should shine out of our darkness, it gives knowledge of the glory of God, it shows God's power, our faithful dying/suffering/persecution brings LIFE to others!

**How you respond to suffering determines —
whether Jesus will be made more famous through you to the lost —
whether other believers will receive confidence,
boldness, fearlessness, and life through you.**

3. God uses suffering to reveal our hearts

While Paul is in prison, there were men preaching Jesus insincerely, out of jealousy of Paul, trying to add to his affliction

- Paul could have spewed bitter vitriol, from an angry heart
- Paul rejoices that Jesus is being preached, regardless of why, how, who
- Paul's eyes are on Jesus and how the Kingdom might be expanded, not on himself
 - he focuses on what God might be doing in the midst of this suffering
- Paul rejoices, and will rejoice — now **and in the future**

Hallelujah Anyway — *having a faith that no matter what happens in your life, you continue to trust and praise God, knowing that God, and no circumstance, has the final word over you!*

Suffering of Joseph — Jacob's youngest

Background

- Genesis 37:1-11
 - loved more than his brothers, favored with coat, dreamer, destiny, envied, hated by brothers

Pit

- Genesis 37:22
 - brothers staged his death, Joseph carted off by slave traders

Potiphar

- Genesis 39:1-20
 - sold as slave into Potiphar's house, God is bigger than circumstances, promoted
 - he is tempted, refuses to sin
 - accused of rape, wrongfully imprisoned

Prison

- Genesis 39:21-23
 - God is with him, mercy, favor, prosperity
 - he is forgotten, continued imprisonment

Palace

- Genesis 41:38-41
 - Pharaoh sets him to rule over the land

Important
Joseph never gets to this point of impacting so many —
unless he suffers faithfully, without complaining, doubting, or quitting on God.
Hallelujah Anyway faith!

Joseph has two sons

- Genesis 41:51-52
 - Manasseh — “God has made me forget all my toil and all my father’s house”
 - Ephraim — “For God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction”

Suffering faithfully leads to victory over past pain — and fruit in midst of affliction!

Pardon

- Genesis 50:20
 - what you meant for evil, God meant for good; God was with me in all of it
 - I’ve overcome my past pain, I’ve been fruitful in affliction
 - circumstance and suffering didn’t have the final word over me
 - now God is using me to save many people
- salvation to the lost, life to believers, witness to all

Are you suffering? Will you be?

Pastor Steve’s Prayer

See what Jesus is doing in it, trust and praise Him, yield your life and will to Him, let God’s light shine out of your darkness, let God’s power overwhelm you, flow through you to the lost, to other Believers, be fruitful in your affliction now, wait patiently for the day when you overcome this present suffering... Hallelujah Anyway!

Discussion Questions

1. When we are going through intense suffering, does that mean that God is no longer with me?
2. Why would He use suffering in our lives? For what purposes?
3. We talk about us trusting God — how/why does God need to trust us?
4. Do you know any person who is going through dire suffering, whose faith is a shining light to you?
5. What would you do, how would you act, if God does NOT bring quick relief or healing in your situation?
6. If God uses suffering to reveal our hearts, what would be revealed in your heart?
7. How does the story of Joseph give you encouragement to just hold on?
8. Define “bondservant.” Can this be used to define your relationship to Jesus Christ?
9. This sermon series has encouraged us that this is the time to “put a stake in the ground,” to declare our Hallelujah Anyway faith, knowing that God, and no circumstance, has the final word over us. If you have not made that conscious decision already, are you ready to make that commitment right now?

Click on "House of Prayer" on www.gracechapel.net to fill out a prayer request.
We will pray for requests for one month, and at our weekly prayer meetings.
See you this Tuesday, April 14, at 6:30 p.m.!