

Hallelujah Anyway, Part 16

Pastor Steve Berger August 30, 2015

Hallelujah Anyway

- **Hallelujah Anyway — a personal declaration...** having a faith that no matter what happens in **my** life, **I** continue to trust and praise God, knowing that God, and no circumstance, has the final word over **me!**

Power, Provision, and Praise in Perilous Times

- **Philippians 4:10-23**
 - But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress. Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen. Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you. All the saints greet you, but especially those who are of Caesar's household. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**This kind of society not only produces peril
but sows seeds of even greater evil!**

Power in Perilous Times

- **Philippians 4:13**
 - I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
 - **...that's Paul's personal experience and testimony not just flowery words!**
- **Philippians 4:12**
 - know how to be **abased**, humbled/humiliated and **abound**, excess/overflow, **full**, gorged and **hungry**, famished, **abound**, **suffer need**, destitute.

I can continue to trust and praise God through it all, through Christ's strength... NOT your own, position yourself in desperation, faith and expectancy!

If you quit trusting and praising God in the midst of your own peril, you will never grow in your experience with Christ's power!

As you continue to trust and praise God in your peril, you're going to receive strength to face and conquer current crisis and even tougher times.

- **Christ's strength in Paul's perilous life — 2 Corinthians 11:23-28**
 - ...in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness— besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches

- **Christ's strength in Paul's weakness — 2 Corinthians 12:7-10**
 - ...And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, **"My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."** Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.
 - a) **grace is sufficient**- divine enabling is sufficient for us
 - b) **strength perfected in weakness**- as weakness grows, Christ's strength increases.
 - c) **take pleasure in weaknesses**- then Christ's strength shows up!
 - d) **"We can do this!"- Christ's power will overcome our weakness, sadness and devastation!**
 - e) **YOU CAN DO THIS — THROUGH CHRIST'S POWER!**

Provision in Perilous Times

- **Philippians 4:19**
 - And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

- **provision of all needs**
 - strength to the weak
 - resource to the needy — through sacrificial giving
 - Philippians continually cared for Paul and other saints

- **2 Corinthians 8:1-5**
 - Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.

Notice the grace of God at work in their very tough situation, because it does!

- **great trial of affliction**
 - yet great abundance of joy
- **deep poverty**
 - yet abounded in riches of liberality, gave beyond their ability!
- **implored with much urgency**
 - begged us to receive the gift of provision

Context is everything — *to generous, joyful, sacrificial givers the promise of provision for all needs is made...* Proverbs 11:25 — *The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed...* THERE IS NO PROMISE OF PROVISION TO THE SELFISH AND STINGY... Proverbs 11:24 — *withhold what's right and it leads to poverty.*

- **Philippians 4:17**
 - Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.
 - “I want you to be blessed by continuing to be a generous, joyful, sacrificial giver!”
- **Philippians 4:18**
 - I want you to know
 - Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God

**Our generous, joyful, sacrificial gifts
are a sweet-smelling, well pleasing, acceptable sacrifice to God
that guarantees His provision in perilous times!**

Praise in Perilous Times

- **Philippians 4:20**
 - Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.
- **glory**
 - praise, honor, worship
- **forever and ever**
 - not just length of time, but in midst of every perilous moment...

Hallelujah Anyway... We Win!

House of Prayer

Click on "House of Prayer" on www.gracechapel.net to fill out a prayer request.
We pray for requests for one month, and at our weekly prayer meetings.
Please come join our House of Prayer, Tuesday, September 1st at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.