

Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. Philippians 2:14-16 (ESV)

Shine Like A Light

That is exactly what I want to do. **What's that?** I want to shine like a light in the world. I want my life to be a testimony for you. I don't want anything to blemish my witness for you. **That is a very good desire. What might hinder your testimony and witness for me in the world?** If I were no different than anyone else in this crooked and twisted generation, then my life would offer no testimony or witness for you. **No, it would not. Are there any behaviors that you want to be particularly on guard against right now?** Yes, I don't want to be a grumbler or a complainer or a disputer. Those are dangerous attitudes for me to hold. Those attitudes provide a direct threat to my ability to be a witness and testimony for you in the world. **Yes, they do.** Beyond that, you are not pleased with grumbling and complaining and disputing. **No, I am not.** You have called me to be grateful and thankful. You desire that I bring peace and harmony wherever I go, in whatever I do. **Yes, I do.**

How will you be able to stop being a grumbling or complainer or a disputer? Not, with my own strength and abilities, that is for sure. I will need you to change the attitudes of my heart and the thoughts of my mind. **How do you think I will change the attitudes of your heart and the thoughts of your mind? What tool will I use to change the attitudes of your heart and the thoughts of you mind?** You will use your word to change the attitudes of my heart and the thoughts of my mind. As I hold fast to your word I will be changed. You will use your word to change my heart and transform my mind. **Yes, I will.**

How will you hold fast to my word? I will keep your word ever before me. I will meditate on your word day and night. I will hide your word in my heart, so I will not sin against you. I will let your word dwell in me richly. **That will be very good.**

What will be assured when you hold fast to my word? As I continue to hold fast to your word, I can be sure that my labor for you will never be in vain. As I continue to hold fast to your word, I can be positive that I will run well the race that you have set before me. **Yes, you can. Will you keep on holding fast to my word?** Yes Lord, I will. **That will be very good. Then you will shine for me like a light in the world.**

Lord, every day I will hold fast to your word. I will allow your word to change the attitude of my heart and thoughts of my mind. I will not grumble or complain so I can be an unblemished light for you in the world. Help me to run well and labor fruitfully for you. Amen

God's Word*Hold Out*

Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life—in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing.

NIV

Philippians 2:14-16

God's Word*Hold Firmly*

Do everything without complaining and arguing, so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people. Hold firmly to the word of life; then, on the day of Christ's return, I will be proud that I did not run the race in vain and that my work was not useless.

NLT

Philippians 2:14-16

God's Word*Holding Fast*

Do all things without murmuring and arguing, so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world. It is by your holding fast to the word of life that I can boast on the day of Christ that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

NRSV

Philippians 2:14-16

God's Word*Holding Out*

Do all things without grumbling and faultfinding and complaining [against God] and questioning and doubting [among yourselves]. That you may show yourselves to be blameless and guileless, innocent and uncontaminated, children of God without blemish (faultless, unrebukable) in the midst of a crooked and wicked generation [spiritually perverted and perverse], among whom you are seen as bright lights (stars or beacons shining out clearly) in the [dark] world, Holding out [to it] and offering [to all men] the Word of Life, so that in the day of Christ I may have something of which exultantly to rejoice and glory in that I did not run my race in vain or spend my labor to no purpose.

AMP

Philippians 2:14-16

God's Word*Holding Fast*

Do all things without grumbling or disputing; so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.

NASB

Philippians 2:14-16

God's Word*Hold Fast*

Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

ESV

Philippians 2:14-16

God's Word*Holding Fast*

Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

NKJV

Philippians 2:14-16

God's Word*Carry*

Do everything readily and cheerfully—no bickering, no second-guessing allowed! Go out into the world uncorrupted, a breath of fresh air in this squalid and polluted society. Provide people with a glimpse of good living and of the living God. Carry the light-giving Message into the night so I'll have good cause to be proud of you on the day that Christ returns. You'll be living proof that I didn't go to all this work for nothing.

MSG

Philippians 2:14-16

God's Word*Holding Out*

In everything you do, stay away from complaining and arguing so that no one can speak a word of blame against you. You are to live clean, innocent lives as children of God in a dark world full of people who are crooked and stubborn. Shine out among them like beacon lights, holding out to them the Word of Life. Then when Christ returns, how glad I will be that my work among you was so worthwhile.

TLB

Philippians 2:14-16

God's Word*Offer*

Do everything without complaining or arguing. Then you will be innocent and without any wrong. You will be God's children without fault. But you are living with crooked and mean people all around you, among whom you shine like stars in the dark world. You offer the teaching that gives life. So when Christ comes again, I can be happy because my work was not wasted. I ran the race and won.

NCV

Philippians 2:14-16

Holding Fast

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Rhythms – Philippians 2:14-16

In Context: *Read Philippians 2*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. Philippians 2:14-16 (ESV)

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

Do | all things | without grumbling | or disputing, | that you | may be | blameless | and | innocent, | children of God | without blemish | in | the midst | of a | crooked | and | twisted generation, | among whom | you shine | as lights | in the world, | holding fast | to the | word of life, | so that | in the | day of Christ | I may | be proud | that | I did not | run | in vain | or | labor | in vain.
Philippians 2:14-16 (ESV)

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, every day I will hold fast to your word. I will allow your word to change the attitude of my heart and thoughts of my mind. I will not grumble or complain so I can be an unblemished light for you in the world. Help me to run well and labor fruitfully for you. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

When have you found that you were grumbling and complaining about your situation in life?

Why is grumbling and complaining not something that is pleasing to God?

How does your attitude stand out as being different in this crooked and twisted generation?

How is your life shining brightly like a light in the world to those who do not know Christ?

How has the Lord used His word to change the attitude of your heart and the thoughts of your mind?

How are you making it your daily practice to hear and to hold on to God's word?

How will holding on to God's word help you to run well and labor fruitfully?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Make it your daily practice to hold fast to God's word so you will run well and labor fruitfully.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that holding fast to God's word will help you to run well and labor fruitfully.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how God's word is helping you to run well and labor fruitfully.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you hold fast to God's word, so you will run well and labor fruitfully for Him.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will hold fast to your word, so I will run well and labor fruitfully for you.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how can I run well and labor fruitfully for you today.
