

*Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him, since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have. Philippians 1:27-30 (NIV)*

## **Whatever Happens**

**There are some things that I would like to go over with you. There are some questions I would like to ask of you.** Go ahead, ask away, you have my full attention, I am listening attentively to you. **You want to be a bright witness for me in the darkness of this world. You want to shine brightly for me like a star in the universe. You want others to see my life being lived out in and through you. You want others to be drawn to me because of what they see in you. Are these all true, do you desire all these things?** Yes, I want to be a bright and powerful witness for you in the darkness of this world. **Good, lets continue. You want to know me. You want to become like me. You want to think like I thought. You want to speak like I spoke. You want to act like I acted. Are all these things also true, do you desire all these things?** Yes, I want all my thoughts and words and actions to be like yours. I want to give like you gave. I want to serve like you served. I want to love like you loved. **Very good, let's keep going. You have said that you want to bear fruit for my kingdom and that you want to being glory to my name. You have said that you want to store up treasure in heaven with me. You have said that you want me to use you to lead others to me. Are all these things also true, do you desire all these things?** Yes, I want you to use me. Yes, I want my life to be well spent in your service. Yes, I want my life to bear fruit for your kingdom and bring glory to your name. I never want to look back over my life, with regret over what I could have been or done for you. I want to be fully used by you. It would give me great joy to know that others came to know and love and follow and serve you because of the way that you used me in their lives. **Very good, we both want the same things.** Yes, we do.

**Now, you may be wondering where I am going with all these questions.** There is no doubt about that. **There is something that you must do. There is a decision you must make right now, in advance, if you want all these things to be true of your life. Without, this decision you will lead an unfruitful life for me.** What decision must I make? **You must decide to live your life in a manner worthy of me. Let me be more specific. In all the pain and suffering and loss in life, you must conduct yourself in way that you remain a bold and bright witness for me in the darkness of this world. Whatever happens, in the most adverse and trying circumstances, your conduct must like mine. In these times you must live, and speak, and act like me. Will you make this decision?** Yes Lord, I will, right now! **That is very good.**

*Holy Spirit, in the past I have not guarded what I allowed my mind to think. I have not set my mind on what you desire. I have not welcomed you to change my heart and transform my mind with God's word. Well, I am now. Amen*

## Promises

### *Conduct Yourselves*

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him, since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

NIV

Philippians 1:27-30

## Promises

### *Live As Citizens*

Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing side by side, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News. Don't be intimidated in any way by your enemies. This will be a sign to them that they are going to be destroyed, but that you are going to be saved, even by God himself. For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him. We are in this struggle together. You have seen my struggle in the past, and you know that I am still in the midst of it.

NLT

Philippians 1:27-30

## Promises

### *Live In A Manner Worthy*

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

NRSV

Philippians 1:27-30

## Promises

### *Conduct Yourselves*

Only be sure as citizens so to conduct yourselves [that] your manner of life [will be] worthy of the good news (the Gospel) of Christ, so that whether I [do] come and see you or am absent, I may hear this of you: that you are standing firm in united spirit *and* purpose, striving side by side *and* contending with a single mind for the faith of the glad tidings (the Gospel). And do not [for a moment] be frightened or intimidated in anything by your opponents *and* adversaries, for such [constancy and fearlessness] will be a clear sign (proof and seal) to them of [their impending] destruction, but [a sure token and evidence] of your deliverance *and* salvation, and that from God. For you have been granted [the privilege] for Christ's sake not only to believe in (adhere to, rely on, and trust in) Him, but also to suffer in His behalf. So you are engaged in the same conflict which you saw me [wage] and which you now hear to be mine [still].

AMP

Philippians 1:27-30

## Promises

### *Conduct Yourselves*

Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; in no way alarmed by *your* opponents—which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that *too*, from God. For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear *to be* in me.

NASB

Philippians 1:27-30

## Promises

### *Let Your Manner Of Life*

Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

ESV

Philippians 1:27-30

## Promises

### *Let Your Conduct*

Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God. For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear *is* in me. Philippians 1:27-30 (NKJV)

NKJV

Philippians 1:27-30

## Promises

### *Live In Such A Way*

Meanwhile, live in such a way that you are a credit to the Message of Christ. Let nothing in your conduct hang on whether I come or not. Your conduct must be the same whether I show up to see things for myself or hear of it from a distance. Stand united, singular in vision, contending for people's trust in the Message, the good news, not flinching or dodging in the slightest before the opposition. Your courage and unity will show them what they're up against: defeat for them, victory for you—and both because of God. There's far more to this life than trusting in Christ. There's also suffering for him. And the suffering is as much a gift as the trusting. You're involved in the same kind of struggle you saw me go through, on which you are now getting an updated report in this letter.

MSG

Philippians 1:27-30

## Promises

### *Live As*

But whatever happens to me, remember always to live as Christians should, so that whether I ever see you again or not, I will keep on hearing good reports that you are standing side by side with one strong purpose—to tell the Good News fearlessly, no matter what your enemies may do. They will see this as a sign of their downfall, but for you it will be a clear sign from God that he is with you, and that he has given you eternal life with him. For to you has been given the privilege not only of trusting him but also of suffering for him. We are in this fight together. You have seen me suffer for him in the past; and I am still in the midst of a great and terrible struggle now, as you know so well.

TLB

Philippians 1:27-30

## Promises

### *Live In A Way*

Only one thing concerns me: Be sure that you live in a way that brings honor to the Good News of Christ. Then whether I come and visit you or am away from you, I will hear that you are standing strong with one purpose, that you work together as one for the faith of the Good News, and that you are not afraid of those who are against you. All of this is proof that your enemies will be destroyed but that you will be saved by God. God gave you the honor not only of believing in Christ but also of suffering for him, both of which bring glory to Christ. When I was with you, you saw the struggles I had, and you hear about the struggles I am having now. You yourselves are having the same kind of struggles.

NCV

Philippians 1:27-30

# Conduct Yourselves

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Week \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Promises** – Philippians 1:27-30

**In Context:** *Read Philippians 1*

**Begin With Prayer:**

***Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.***

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

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved--and that by God. For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him, since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have. Philippians 1:27-30 (NIV)

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

Whatever happens, | conduct yourselves | in a manner | worthy of the gospel | of Christ. | Then, whether | I come and see you | or only hear about you | in my absence, | I will know that | you stand firm | in one spirit, | contending as one man | for the faith | of the gospel | without being frightened | in any way | by those | who oppose you. | This is a sign to them | that they | will be destroyed, but that | you will be saved | --and that by God. | For it has been granted | to you | on behalf of Christ | not only to believe | on him, | but also | to suffer for him, | since you are | going through | the same struggle | you saw I had, | and now hear that | I still have. Philippians 1:27-30 (NIV)

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

Lord, I am no fan of suffering. I don't enjoy adverse circumstances and difficult trials. Yet, I will decide in advance that I will go through pain, suffering, and loss in such a way that I will remain a bright witness for you in the world. Bear fruit through my life. Amen

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

Why can you be certain that you will go through adverse circumstances that will cause you to suffer?

**Why is it critically important to decide in advance how you will respond to adverse circumstances in life?**

Why must you not let whatever happens to you dictate the way that you conduct yourself?

How vitally important is the conduct of your behavior to the power of your witness for Christ in the world?

When have you let the conduct of your behavior hamper the brightness of your witness for Christ?

**When have adverse circumstances given you a unique opportunity to be a powerful witness for Christ?**

**What fruit has your life born for Christ because your witness was bright in adverse circumstances?**

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

Allow the Lord to use your adverse circumstances in life to be a powerful witness for Him.

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

Have faith that the Lord will be able to use your adverse circumstances to be a powerful witness for Him.

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

Share with another person or your small group how you have been a witness for Christ in adverse circumstances.

**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?**

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**What Prayers Are You Praying Today?**

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**Prayer Of Blessing**

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

*May your conduct in adverse circumstances allow you to be a bright witness for Christ.*

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**Prayer To Carry**

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

*Lord, I will make sure my conduct in adverse circumstances allows me to be a bright witness for you.*

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**What Do You Want To Remember About Today?**

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**A Question To Ask God**

*(What Would You Like To Ask God?)*

*Lord, how do you want to use adverse circumstances to make me a bright witness for you?*

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