

# Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

*Philippians:  
A Choice to Rejoice*

## Lesson 4: Stand for Your Faith

### Bible Text

Philippians 1:27-30

### Memory Verse

“For this reason, we always pray for you. We pray that our God will make you worth being chosen. We pray that His power will help you do the good things you want to do. We pray that your work of faith will be complete.” (2 Thessalonians 1:11)

### Word List

**consistently:** always acting in the same way

**hypocrisy:** actions that do not agree with what someone says they believe

**hypocrite:** someone whose actions do not agree with what they say they believe

**integrity:** strength and firmness of someone's actions and words; complete truth and honesty

We all know **hypocrisy** when we see it. We see it in people whose actions do not match the words they say. It is the government leader making rules that he does not follow himself. It is the mother scolding her child for saying a word she often uses herself. Hypocrisy is ugly. We feel angry when we see it in others. Yet, we do not always see the

hypocrisy in our own lives.

Jesus hated hypocrisy. He pointed it out in the religious leaders who argued with Him. He warned His followers not to be like the **hypocrites**. Paul was once a religious leader. He was the kind of leader that Jesus warned against. Then Jesus changed Paul. Now he was a different person. Now Paul worked hard to live a life of **integrity**. He understood the importance of making his words and actions match.

Other people are always watching what we do. They might want to know more about Jesus if they see His life in us. But sometimes people reject Jesus when they see hypocrisy in us. What we believe should change how we live. Our beliefs should direct our actions. Our love for Jesus should make us more like Him. As followers of Jesus, we must be people of integrity. Then the troubles of life will not break us. We can stand strong through any trouble if we stay true to Jesus.

### Stand True (Philippians 1:27)

**27 Live your lives as the Good News of Christ says you should. If I come to you or not, I want to hear that you are standing true as one. I want to hear that you are working together as one, preaching the Good News.**

In Paul's letter to the church in Philippi, he wrote to his friends about his life

and about how to face trials. He was not ashamed to be writing from prison. He showed that he could find good even in his troubles. He shared how he trusted God with his future. Then he turned to write about life for his friends in Philippi. The believers there had troubles of their own.

Paul points to false teachers within the church who were pushing extra rules on Christians. They were teaching that believers had to follow all the rules of the Jewish faith, as well as follow the new teachings of Jesus. These false teachers made life hard for believers who were not Jewish first. They were dividing the church and causing trouble. Paul wrote that they should base their lives on the Good News of Christ and focus on preaching those truths.

The believers in Philippi had another problem as well. They were being treated badly by people outside the church. Other people did not like Christianity. They saw it as a threat to their businesses, their beliefs, and their own way of life. They tried to force Christians to worship pagan gods and follow their rules. Christians were then treated badly when they refused.

So, the church in Philippi had some troubles. The believers needed to come together to face these threats. They needed to be able to trust one another. Paul knew where to begin to build this trust. Each person

needed to live with integrity. They needed to stay true to Christ's teachings. And they needed to do this **consistently**. Trust would grow between the believers as they saw one another living for Christ day after day.

### **Stand Unafraid (Philippians 1:28)**

**28 Do not be afraid of those who hate you. Their hate for you proves they will be destroyed. It proves you have life from God that lasts forever.**

Fear spreads easily. We have seen the fear of sickness spread across our whole world. It has caused some leaders to make harsh rules. Many people are afraid of being near other people. They fear getting sick. The fear of death is strong among people today.

But courage can also spread. One person's courage can help others grow unafraid. Paul understood that the church in Philippi needed courage to face their troubles together. He wrote, "Do not be afraid." Paul was not afraid as he wrote from prison. He knew that he would win whether he lived or died. The believers in Philippi were winners, too because of their faith in Jesus. They could have the same courage as Paul by trusting Jesus to give them strength.

The Philippian church probably felt afraid because they had enemies who hated them. The believers were hated because they

were followers of Jesus. Paul reminds them to always choose God's way of love. Hate does not come from God. Paul reminded the church that they were on the winning side. They could look forward to life with God forever. No matter what happened, good things were coming for those who stayed true to Jesus.

### **Stand in Suffering (Philippians 1:29)**

**29 You are not only to put your trust in Him, but you are to suffer for Him also.**

No one wants to suffer. We all like to feel good and have an easy life. But Jesus said that we will have troubles in life. God uses those troubles to teach us and change us. And sometimes God uses our troubles to help others. Others may want what we have when they see how God helps us through our troubles.

### **Things to Think About**

1. How do you feel when you see hypocrisy? What can you do to keep it out of your own life?
2. Do you know people of integrity that you trust? Do you think others see you as a person of integrity? Why or why not?
3. What fears are you fighting today? What teachings from the Bible give you courage and hope? How can you trust Jesus more?
4. How do people suffer for Christ today? How can you pray for believers who are suffering?
5. Have there been times in your life when others helped you through difficulties? What did they do that helped? What help can you offer someone else?

Paul learned to see the good that came from his troubles. And he wanted the believers in Philippi to learn this lesson, too. They could look at their problems and only see bad. Or they could see past their troubles to the good that God was doing. Paul said that the world's hate was proof that the believers were living for God.

Jesus said, "You will be hated by all people because of Me. But he who stays true to the end will be saved" (Matthew 10:22). Jesus even said that His followers should be happy to suffer for Him. He said, "You are happy when people act and talk in a bad way to you and make it very hard for you and tell bad things and lies about you because you trust in Me. Be glad and full of joy because your reward will be much in heaven" (Matthew 5:11-12a). Staying true to Jesus through suffering is hard. But believers can look forward to rewards that will last forever. We can learn to look at suffering as an honor. Suffering well makes us more like Jesus.

### **Stand Together (Philippians 1:30)**

**30 You know what the fight is like. Now it is time for you to have a part in it as I have.**

During the time COVID-19 has spread through the world, we have seen a message that has also spread. People have shared the message: "We are all in this together." We do

not want to feel alone when we go through troubles. We feel stronger with other people.

Paul wrote to tell his friends that they were not alone. He knew that they were suffering. He was suffering as well. Paul's strength could help the church in Philippi stay strong. Together they could stay true to Jesus and win.

### **Things to Remember**

The believers in Philippi needed to stand strong in their faith. They needed to trust one another to stay true. They needed to take hope and have courage. They needed to look for the good in their troubles. And they needed to stay strong together.

We can expect to have troubles, too. Our troubles may be different from what the Philippians had. But we will have troubles of our own. We can learn from Paul's message to the church. We, too, must stand for our faith. We must get rid of any hypocrisy in our lives. We must live like Jesus and stay true to His teachings. Then we can stand strong through any trouble.

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### **Philippians 1:27-30**

**27 Live your lives as the Good News of Christ says you should. If I come to you or not, I want to hear that you are standing true as one. I want to hear that you are working together as one, preaching the Good News.**

**28 Do not be afraid of those who hate you.**

**Their hate for you proves they will be destroyed. It proves you have life from God that lasts forever.**

**29 You are not only to put your trust in Him, but you are to suffer for Him also.**

**30 You know what the fight is like. Now it is time for you to have a part in it as I have.**

### **2 Thessalonians 1:11**

**(New International Reader's Version)**

**11 Keeping this in mind, we never stop praying for you. Our God has chosen you. We pray that he will make you worthy of his choice. We pray that he will make every good thing you want to do come true. We pray that he will do this by his power. We pray that he will make perfect all that you have done by faith.**

### **2 Thessalonians 1:11**

**(New Century Version)**

**11 That is why we always pray for you, asking our God to help you live the kind of life he called you to live. We pray that with his power God will help you do the good things you want and perform the works that come from your faith.**