



**REAL
MATURE**

Devotions

READ | UNDERSTAND | APPLY

Monday: Whatever Happens

PRAY: Ask God to speak to you from His Word.

READ: Philippians 1:27a

²⁷ Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.

UNDERSTAND: *get a deeper understanding of the key words*

1. Begin by underlining nouns with a single line, double underline verbs, and circle descriptive words.
2. Make a list of the key words/phrases and think about what they mean.

Snapshot: In this passage Paul teaches us that the way we live (conduct ourselves) should not be determined by our circumstances (whatever happens). Whether we are in a good or bad situation we are commanded to live like we belong to and represent Christ. Since Jesus paid the ultimate sacrifice for our salvation, we should live in a way that is worthy (adequate representation) of that sacrifice.

Takeaway: Your circumstances do not determine your actions.
In any circumstance there is always a response worthy of the gospel.

APPLY: *What is this passage calling me to do?*

In what ways do we use our circumstances to justify our actions?

In your current circumstances, what response is worthy of Christ's sacrifice for you?

PRAY: Ask God to help you live in a way that honors His sacrifice for you.



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Tuesday: Worthy of the Gospel

PRAY: Ask God to speak to you from His Word.

READ: Philippians 1:27

²⁷ 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 the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel

UNDERSTAND: *get a deeper understanding of the key words*

1. Begin by underlining nouns with a single line, double underline verbs, and circle descriptive words.
2. Make a list of the key words/phrases and think about what they mean.

Snapshot: In this passage Paul reassures the Philippians that will persevere together for the faith of the gospel. He uses the phrase “stand firm” to emphasize the need for a strong perseverance in the face of hardship. Then Paul uses the phrase “striving together” which refers to fighting together in battle. Think about a team of soldiers strive together in battle. They support each other, have each other’s back, and they don’t leave anyone behind. This is a great picture of what the church should be.

Takeaway: Follow Jesus for yourself, but never by yourself.

APPLY: *What is this passage calling me to do?*

What do you think it looks like to “stand firm in one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel”?

How can handling difficult situations alone be dangerous? Think about a time when you handled something alone and it would have been better to seek help.

PRAY: Ask God to help you identify a few people that you can seek help from.



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Wednesday: Fearless

PRAY: Ask God to speak to you from His Word.

READ: Philippians 1:27-28

²⁷ 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 the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ 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.

UNDERSTAND: *get a deeper understanding of the key words*

1. Begin by underlining nouns with a single line, double underline verbs, and circle descriptive words.
2. Make a list of the key words/phrases and think about what they mean.

Snapshot: In this passage Paul tells the Philippians that when they are standing firm and striving together as one, they will not have to be afraid of opposition. In the first century church, persecution was a normal part of life. Spreading the gospel was a crime that could lead to the death penalty. They had everything to be afraid of, yet they were bold and fearless for the sake of the gospel. Their behavior demonstrated the gospel to those around them.

Takeaway: Our behavior is either a demonstration or a contradiction of the gospel.

APPLY: *What is this passage calling me to do?*

What kind of opposition are you facing in your life?

What are you afraid of? Why are you afraid? Read Romans 8:15

PRAY: Ask God to help you be fearless for the sake of the gospel.



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Thursday: Granted

PRAY: Ask God to speak to you from His Word.

READ: Philippians 1:29

²⁹ For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him,

UNDERSTAND: *get a deeper understanding of the key words*

1. Begin by underlining nouns with a single line, double underline verbs, and circle descriptive words.
2. Make a list of the key words/phrases and think about what they mean.

Snapshot: In this passage Paul teaches us that our faith is granted to us by God (see Ephesians 2:8-9). God gives us the ability to believe in Him because we are dead in our sins and cannot believe on our own (Ephesians 2:1-5). Not only is our faith granted to us, suffering for Christ has also been granted to us. God uses suffering to grow our faith (Romans 5:1-5) and to reach others with the gospel.

Takeaway: Suffering produces in us what nothing else can produce.

APPLY: *What is this passage calling me to do?*

How does it make you feel to know that God grants suffering to us?

In what ways has God used suffering in your life to grow your faith?

PRAY: Ask God to help you trust in His purpose behind your circumstances.



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Friday: The Same Struggles

PRAY: Ask God to speak to you from His Word.

READ: Philippians 1:29-30

²⁹ For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, ³⁰ since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

UNDERSTAND: *get a deeper understanding of the key words*

1. Begin by underlining nouns with a single line, double underline verbs, and circle descriptive words.
2. Make a list of the key words/phrases and think about what they mean.

Snapshot: In this passage Paul reveals to us that he was not the only person being persecuted for the gospel. Apparently the Philippians were also going through the same struggles as Paul. When Paul says, “the same struggle you saw I had” he is referring back to the events in Acts 16:16-40 when Paul and Silas were imprisoned in Philippi. Paul often encouraged the persecuted church by reminding them that their situation is God’s will (see Romans 8:16-18; 2 Corinthians 1:5; 1 Thessalonians 3:1-4).

Takeaway: Our suffering is not unique to us.

APPLY: *What is this passage calling me to do?*

Who do you know that has had the same struggles you have?

How might they help you with your situation?

PRAY: Ask God to help you lean on others during your time of need.



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Saturday: Prepare for Sunday

REVIEW: Take a few minutes to make a list of what you've learned this week.

PRAY: Ask God to use this time to help you get familiar with Sunday's scripture passage.

READ: Philippians 2:1-4

¹ Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

THINK: *Go ahead and underline key words and phrases.*

Start thinking about what this passage is saying.

- What stands out to you in this passage?
- What do you think is the main idea?
- What parts are confusing or hard to understand?
- How might this passage help you to follow Jesus better?

PRAY: Ask God to prepare you for tomorrow's worship service.