



August 2015

Great Challenges Bring Greater Victories

Dear Evelyn & James,

As you know, we all go through adversity. There's not one believer that is immune to attacks, tests, and trials. It doesn't matter how spiritual you are. It doesn't matter how long you've been in this; we're all subject to attacks from time to time.

Satan designs each attack to do one thing – get you to quit! He wants you to turn your back on God, and he wants to get you to come to the place that you say, "It's just not worth it any more."

But what if there was a way to turn obstacles into opportunities and setbacks into stepping stones? **That's what I want to talk to you about in this letter, how you can turn your pressure into progress!**

After years of opposition, having been arrested, beaten, imprisoned and shipwrecked, the Apostle Paul writes a letter to the Philippians. In Chapter 1, verse 12, listen to what he wrote, "*Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel.*"

Paraphrasing Paul, what he said was, "The things that I have gone through didn't cause me to quit, didn't cause me to throw in the towel, didn't cause me to say 'it's not worth it', didn't cause me to quit going to church, didn't cause me to quit tithing, nor did it cause me to quit praying." He said, "All it's done is cause furtherance of the Gospel."

And I want you to know that the pressure you may be facing will only do one thing - it will cause you to progress and experience advancement.

How did this happen in Paul's life? Why was he able to overcome in times of adversity? The answer is found in Philippians 1:18. Look at it from the Message translation, "*So how am I to respond? I've decided that I really don't care about their motives, whether mixed, bad, or indifferent. Every time one of them opens his mouth, Christ is proclaimed, so I just cheer them on! And I'm going to keep that celebration going because I know how it's going to turn out.*"

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