

“Living With Conviction”

September 1, 2024

Scripture Text: Philippians 1:24- 26 ESV **24** But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. **25** Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, **26** so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

VERSE 24: *But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.*

Paul has had to suffer for Christ's sake and, like any believer who has suffered hardships, longs to be with the Lord... but yields to God's will to continue ministering. Someone has stated, “A Christian is immortal until his work is done on earth.” Did you know that death can't touch us? However, so close we are... until God's work in us is finished?

Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

As we fulfill our commission from the Lord and finish faithfully serving and sharing His grace with the body of Christ and the world... then we can rest. When we have walked in the good works He prepared for us from the foundation of the world, He will say, “Son/daughter, it's time to come. Well done, My good and faithful servant.”

VERSE 25: *Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith,*

Sometimes, you may feel that you have done all you can and are ready to be with the Lord. God revealed to Paul that the believer's needs were more significant than his need to be in heaven. It's in those times you conclude that God's strength is made perfect in your weakness.

While in prison, he knew that if God wanted him to continue strengthening the churches, he would be set free. Paul realized that as long as God restored his joy amid all he endured, he would see believers maturing and continue ministering to them. His work for the Lord precedes his desire to be with the Lord.

VERSE 26: *so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.*

While he was in prison, prayers were directed to the Lord for his release, and if he were released, he would rejoin them. This would continue to bolster their faith and joy by elevating their testimony of the Lord faithfully answering their prayers. They would boast in the Lord and be thankful for Paul's return to strengthen and encourage them to look to Christ.

He would instruct them because of his life experience in chapter 4, verse 13: *"I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me."* Paul says he can prevail or have victory over any circumstances by relying on Christ and the Holy Spirit to give him strength. Paul was at peace with his circumstances because he didn't rest his hope on their prayers or petitions for the authorities to release him but on God.

Applications:

The Lord will renew our strength and empower us in our weakest hour to share His word.

We can always be assured that God's word sown in faith will be fruitful.