



Pastor Kris Beckert
June 11, 2017

#winning struggles
Philippians 1:12-24

What star athlete, artist, movie character, or everyday person stands out to you because of their powerful backstory?

Philippians 1:12 *Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel*

Three good stories that come from struggles:

I. Struggles _____

Philippians 1:13 *As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.*

- Revealed Christ both _____ & _____
- Paul's impact --

II. Struggles _____

Philippians 1:14-18a *And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear. 15 It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. 16 The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. 17 The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. 18 But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.*

The believers “dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear”

- Some out of love
- Some out of selfish ambition

III. Struggles _____

Philippians 1:18b-24 *Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, 19 for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. 20 I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 22 If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! 23 I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; 24 but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.*

Point:

Doggy Bag: Something to take home and chew on!



1. What #struggles are you facing/have you faced?
2. Review your recent social media posts, pictures in your phone, and conversations with others. When have you hidden the “real story” going on behind the carefully crafted words, photo, or surface-story?
3. Have you ever been honest about the struggle you're facing—with a friend, with yourself, with God? Where do you need courage to take a step?
4. How have you seen or experienced God's grace in the midst of struggle?
5. When has someone's struggle inspired you to do something? How might revealing your struggle inspire someone to follow God's call or encounter Christ?
6. How do you imagine seeing God's deliverance from your current struggle? How might God use the struggles in your backstory for your good and for His glory?

If you'd like to talk personally and confidentially w/Pastor Kris about your relationship with Christ, please email krisbeckert@thevineva.org or call 215-237-4959 to set up an appointment.