

It Happens

Week 10

READY:

Whether I come and see you or am absent, I will hear about you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind, working side by side for the faith of the Gospel, not being frightened in any way by your opponents. –Philippians 1:27-28

SET:

It happens all the time: you are confronted with a situation in which your attitude will dictate your altitude. Someone says something mean to you; a promise is broken; you are treated poorly by someone at school. Whatever the circumstances, does your attitude show that God is in your life?

In his letter to the Philippians, Paul urged the believers to stand firm in their faith in Christ. Paul wanted everyone to stay focused on Christ and the glory of the cross, no matter what happened. In every situation, we are under the authority of God, as we should act and react accordingly. Though we may be wronged, mistreated or broken, we must stand firm, knowing that God will provide the victory.

Things happen in sports and life for a reason. But remember, how you respond will show others what or Who is in your heart. Is your attitude above reproach? Can others tell that Christ is in you by your words and your actions?

Respect all, fear none. That is God's calling for us. So face it—things happen to the best of us. Do your best through Christ to show that He truly rules in your life.

GO:

1. Is your attitude truly reflective of your relationship with Christ?
2. When something goes differently than you want, what does your life reflect?

WORKOUT:

Philippians 1:20-21 (NIV)

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.

Philippians 1:27-28 (NIV)

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 gospel²⁸ 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.

James 1:2-6 (NIV)

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. ⁶ But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

OVERTIME:

Lord, as I live for you today, help me to maintain an attitude that displays Your glory to all. May my mouth, my heart and my head be in total submission to You. Give me the strength to respect and honor those who treat me wrong. Help me to serve You better today than I did yesterday. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.