

September 30, 2018



GOD, WHY?...by David W. Spillman

"How I praise the Lord that you are concerned about me again. I know you have always been concerned for me, but you didn't have the chance to help me. Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:10-13 NLT).

How can we have the contentment that the apostle Paul had as his life ran the gamut of the having life going great to life knocking him physically flat on his back with one awful event after another? I believe if we look closely at how the Holy Spirit was fueling Paul's life and how He (the Holy Spirit) breathed these Words into Paul, we too will be able to genuinely find contentment no matter the circumstance that we find ourselves in.

As we read about Paul's life...the good and the bad, the ups and the downs...never once do we read of Paul asking the question "why?". "Why is this happening to me?" "God, why did you leave me when I needed you most?" "Why are you letting me enemies do with me as they please?" There are so many times in life that these are questions we want and have asked God. It is not that God cannot handle our "why?" questions, but here is the question that we need to ask ourselves if we are to find the contentment that is ours only in Christ. Does asking God why in the most horrific circumstances pull me closer to Him? Or, does the "why" question allow me to wallow in my own self-pity? Please understand that in no way am I minimizing the devastating hurt that many of us have experienced and may be even experiencing right now. It is real. It shakes our world to the core! But, is there hope when all seems hopeless to ever find contentment in our lives again?

Absolutely! Instead of asking "why" in these life shattering situations, the better question is, "what"! Asking why is not going to change the reality of the circumstance, so we need to ask, "what am I supposed to do with this?" "What is God going to do with this to help me grow to be more like Jesus?" "What part of this is God using to protect me?" I believe the reason Paul was able to find contentment no matter how bad life beat him up was because of where he chose to place his mind. Not on himself and sinking with self-pity. Listen as he tells us, "And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thought on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me---everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you" (Philippians 4:8-9 NLT).

When we switch our minds from the why questions to the what questions, it opens our minds and lives to receive God! You, me, us...we receive God! Let that sink in--we receive the God of peace and He will be with us through thick or thin! God bless!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Worship Leader: Alan Moreland

Children Sing

Songs: Salvation Belongs to Our God
Lord, Reign In Me
Blessed Be Your Name
Worthy Is The Lamb

Communion: Tom Flanagan
Aaron Campbell, Mark Pleasant, Eric Punzal, Sam Hipp

Offering:

Song: It is Well (With My Soul)

Scripture Reading: Terry Grant (*Matthew 6:14-15*)

Speaker: David Spillman

FORGIVING...
AND OTHER TOUGH TEACHINGS OF JESUS

HOF Announcements: Ryan Martin

Shepherd's Time: Dean Kennedy

Greeter: Marie McWhirter

Facilitator: Gary McWhirter

Nursery Attendant: Sharon Law

Communion Preparation: Staleys

ADULTS—AUDITORIUM

New Studies Beginning TODAY!
Faith Commander — Phil Robertson
Terry Hargrove / Aaron Campbell, Facilitators

ADULTS—Fellowship Hall
Being A Healthy Family & Raising Godly Children
Rick & Meg Hipp, Facilitators

Hearts on Fire Sunday School Classrooms

Glimmers	Birth—3	Upstairs—Room 7
Sparks	Ages 3-Pre-K	Upstairs—Room 6
Embers	Kindergarten-Grade 2	Upstairs—Room 10
Flames	Grades 3-5	Upstairs—Room 9
Heat	Grades 6-8	Downstairs—Room 13
Blaze	Grades 9-12	Downstairs—Room 16/17



**Please
Turn off Your
Mobile Phones**



Challenge: Pray daily for our entire church family (by name).