

# THE JOY OF ADVERSITY

## Thinking Points

1. What is your usual response to adversity? Small or big?
2. Adversity provides opportunity. When was a time in your life where the *obstacle* of adversity turned out to be an *opportunity*, like Paul's house arrest did?
3. Adversity produces courage. Who do you know, who has outrageous courage and faith, even in difficult seasons? What is it that inspires you about them?
4. Adversity prompts growth. Can you relate to adversity silencing your faith? What can we do to ensure we turn up the volume instead, next time?
5. What inspired you about Chené's story, that you can implement in your own life?
6. Which of these verses speaks to you the most? Philippians 4:13 or John 16:33?

## Philippians 1:12-26 NIV

Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. **13** As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. **14** 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.

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 labour 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. **25** Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, **26** so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

## Next Steps

1. Read Philippians 1:12-26 this week.
2. Look for opportunities to share your story, to help others in their tough season.
3. Choose to ask "what" over "why" when adversity comes your way.

DEFIANT  
JOY

