



## Surge Life's Storms with Joy!

### Shining As Stars

Week 9—Philippians 2:12-18

**Week 8 Flashback:** *The imprisoned Apostle Paul stressed the importance of having the attitude of Christ—an attitude reflective of the word “humility.” Christ was truly Deity, but for our sake, humbled Himself and became the form of God in the flesh! He even chose to die a humiliating and painful death on a cross to point us to a loving and saving relationship with God, the Father!*

*Paul encourages us to always put the needs of others in front of our own wants and desires! By doing so, we can have the attitude that Jesus had—the attitude of humility!*

### Read It: Philippians 2:12-18

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose.

<sup>14</sup> Do everything without complaining or arguing, <sup>15</sup> so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you **shine like stars** in the universe <sup>16</sup> as you hold out the word of life—in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing. <sup>17</sup> But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. <sup>18</sup> So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

### Think About It:

Paul urged the Philippian Christians to be especially careful to obey Christ since he was not present with them to continuously remind them of what was right. You, too, need to be particularly mindful to do what would please the Lord at ALL times—even when other believers aren't around to encourage you or hold you accountable!

### Talk About It:

1. **Read** aloud verse 13. **Notice** the words “will” (what we desire for ourselves) and “act.” Our “will” involves a choice. The word “act” refers to our actions of obedience. This verse says that it is God, who works in you, to create the desire for you to choose and obey His good purposes. If you don't **ever** feel a desire to please the Lord or if you don't **ever** feel bad (conviction) when you choose to sin, what could that be saying about your spiritual condition? (**Really think about it**—your answer could determine if your eternity will be spent in heaven or in hell!)



2. **Why** do you think some people, even teenagers, seem to have a real desire to please God and others don't?
3. Verse 13 tells us that God has not left us alone to do His will (what He desires for us)! To be as Christ and do God's will every day, we need: 1) God's strength, which comes in the form of the Holy Spirit in us; 2) the influence of other committed Christian friends; and 3) time spent reading the Bible and praying! These behaviors help to make God's will become our will. **What** keeps you from wanting to live "according to His good purpose?" Or in other words, **what** keeps you from choosing to live God's way in every area of your life?
4. **Read** verses 14-16 aloud. **Why** does Paul make such a big deal regarding complaining and arguing?
5. **What** does Paul mean by "we are to be pure and blameless" so that we may "**shine like stars** in the universe?"
6. **How** would arguing and complaining cause our "stars to *not* shine?"
7. **Read** verse 15. **What** two words did Paul use to describe his generation in Bible times? We are living 2000+ years later and we still can describe our generation the very same way! All sins, whether done in the open or as a secret sin of the heart, keep us from reflecting God's light. Knowing this, **what** are some sins in the lives of Christian teenagers that would keep their "**star**" **from shining brightly**?
8. **Read** aloud again verses 14-16. Verse 16 mentions "shining like stars in the universe as you hold out the *word of life*." **What** is the "word of life?"
9. In your own words, **summarize** what Paul wanted the Christians in Philippi to learn in verses 12-18.

### Lightning Bolt Moment →



In today's study, did a light bulb come on in your head? Think of a few ways **how** you could "hold out the word of life" and let your "**light**" **shine** for Christ at school or in your home.

### Joy Surge →



You can't be **joyful** when living a life of sin. If God's will is your will and you choose to live a pure and blameless life rather than choosing the "ways of this world," how does this free you up to experience real **joy**?