

## Hope When Life Turns Against You

*Do everything without complaining or arguing 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 as you hold out the word of life.*

*When all kinds of trials and temptations crowd into your life, don't resent them as intruders. Welcome them as friends. Realize they serve to produce in you the quality of endurance. (Ja.1:5 - MSG)*

Philippians 1:12-18

*The ABC's of Emotional Life*

"A" = "Antecedent"

"C" = "Consequences"

"B" = "Beliefs"

"The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think, say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company... a church... a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we embrace for that day.

We cannot change our past... we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play the one string we have, and that is our attitude... I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you... we are in charge of our Attitudes" Charles Swindoll

What cognitive filter did Paul use to view his life?

*We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's."*

*“Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, for I am convinced that nothing and no one in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God....”*

*“We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.”*

Was Paul just a born optimist, a masochist or a martyr?

Acts 21-28

“ABC’s” of Paul’s spiritual life

A: Antecedents – chains, critics, crisis

B: Belief - Jesus is Lord and in control

C: Consequence – I will rejoice.

Moses sent 12 spies to spy out Canaan – 10 spies came back with one verdict ...

*“We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. <sup>28</sup> But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. <sup>29</sup> The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan.”*

2 spies, Joshua and Caleb, returned with a different verdict ...

*“We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.”*

Acts 5 – early believers arrested by Jewish authorities: what were the consequences: “they rejoiced that they were considered worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of Jesus”

When we enter down times, our God is a faithful God.

When our pain increases, our God is a faithful God.

When chains come, our God is a faithful God.

When critics come, our God is a faithful God.

When crises come, our God is a faithful God.