

"Confidence During Difficulty" by Pastor Dan Stockum



<sup>1</sup> For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup> assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you,



 <sup>3</sup> how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly.
<sup>4</sup> When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ,



<sup>5</sup> which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.



<sup>6</sup> This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.



<sup>7</sup> Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power.



<sup>8</sup> To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,



<sup>9</sup> and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things,



<sup>10</sup> so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.



<sup>11</sup> This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.



<sup>13</sup> So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.



<sup>14</sup> For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named,



<sup>16</sup> that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,



<sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love,



<sup>18</sup> may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,



<sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.



<sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,



<sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.





## The cause of their distress:

# Paul is in prison even though he obeyed God







# Why Paul has peace: purpose, grace, glory



## Why Paul has peace:

1. Purpose: He sees his situation as God's plan.





# Why Paul has peace:

 Purpose: He sees his situation as God's plan.
Grace: He sees his assignment as a gift of God's grace.





# Why Paul has peace:

1. Purpose: He sees his situation as God's plan. 2. Grace: He sees his assignment as a gift of God's grace. 3. Glory: He sees his situation as an opportunity for God's glory.



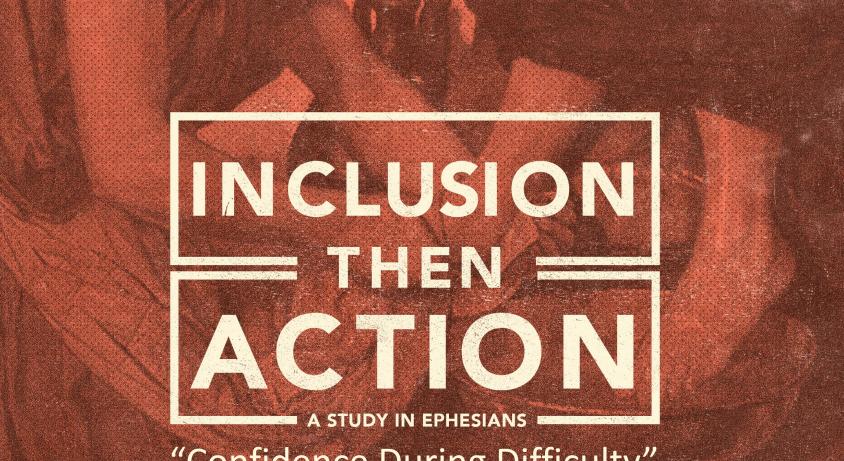


# How the Ephesians can find peace as well:

# fervently pray for and seek an experience of God







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