

"Confidence During Difficulty" by Pastor Dan Stockum



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



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



⁵ 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.



⁶ 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.



⁷ 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.



⁸ 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,



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



²⁰ 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,



²¹ 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.



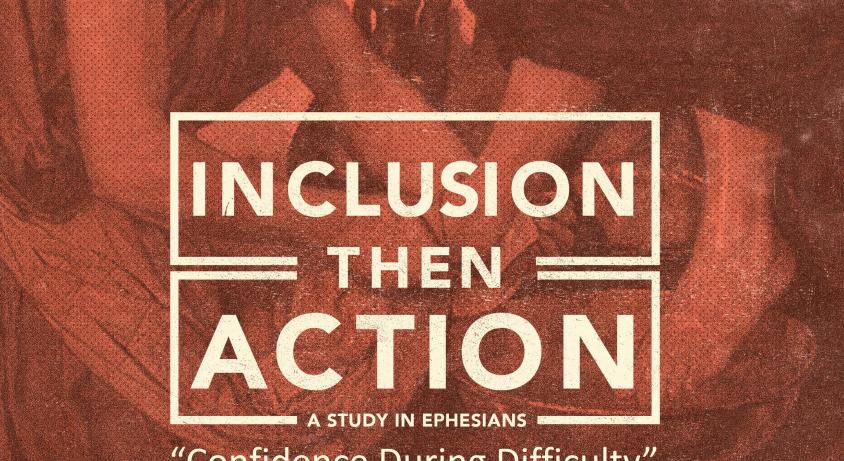


How the Ephesians can find peace as well:

fervently pray for and seek an experience of God







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