

Week 1: Living As If God Is In Control

Sermon Series: Philippians

Key Verses: Philippians 1

Speaker: Dr. Justin Hardcastle

Big Idea: We can face uncertain circumstances with peace and joy when we truly believe God is in control. For the next four weeks, we'll walk through Philippians and learn how to live with faith, joy, and confidence through difficult times.

Second Peter is one of the final letters the Have you ever said, “God is in control”? Most of us have, but it becomes a very different statement when life does not look the way we thought it would. Sometimes we are doing what God told us to do and things still get difficult. Can I still say God is in control when I do not understand what is happening? Philippians answers that question with a powerful yes.

Trials Do Not Mean God Has _____ You

- **Read:** Philippians 1:12–14
- Sometimes we have this idea that if we are doing everything right, nothing difficult should happen. You can be exactly where God wants you to be and still face opposition.
- Paul and Silas were in prison—but prison was not the end of their story (Acts 16). Years later, Paul is imprisoned again. Once again, he refuses to allow his circumstances to determine his faith.
- Trials are something we walk through.

Let God's Priorities Become Your _____

- **Read:** Philippians 1:12–18. Paul basically tells the Philippians: “What has happened to me has actually helped advance the Gospel.” Paul cared more about what God was accomplishing than about his own comfort.

Week 1: Living As If God Is In Control

Sermon Series: Philippians

Key Verses: Philippians 1

Speaker: Dr. Justin Hardcastle

Big Idea: We can face uncertain circumstances with peace and joy when we truly believe God is in control. For the next four weeks, we'll walk through Philippians and learn how to live with faith, joy, and confidence through difficult times.

Second Peter is one of the final letters the Have you ever said, “God is in control”? Most of us have, but it becomes a very different statement when life does not look the way we thought it would. Sometimes we are doing what God told us to do and things still get difficult. Can I still say God is in control when I do not understand what is happening? Philippians answers that question with a powerful yes.

Trials Do Not Mean God Has _____ You

- **Read:** Philippians 1:12–14
- Sometimes we have this idea that if we are doing everything right, nothing difficult should happen. You can be exactly where God wants you to be and still face opposition.
- Paul and Silas were in prison—but prison was not the end of their story (Acts 16). Years later, Paul is imprisoned again. Once again, he refuses to allow his circumstances to determine his faith.
- Trials are something we walk through.

Let God's Priorities Become Your _____

- **Read:** Philippians 1:12–18. Paul basically tells the Philippians: “What has happened to me has actually helped advance the Gospel.” Paul cared more about what God was accomplishing than about his own comfort.

- We like God being in control as long as His plan looks like our plan, but real faith says: “God, even when I do not understand the plan, I trust the One who made it.”
- Sometimes peace comes from surrendering control of the situation to God.

Trust God With The _____

- **Read:** Philippians 1:19–26. Paul does not know exactly what is going to happen, but he is confident about one thing: Whatever happens, God will be glorified.
- Some of us want God to show us the entire plan before we trust Him, but you can still know this: God is already standing in the tomorrow you are worried about today.

Do Not Walk Through Difficult Seasons _____

- **Read:** Philippians 1:27–30. Paul closes the chapter by talking about the church standing together.
- This is part of what God is building here at River of Life, because there will be moments when your faith helps carry somebody else, and there will be moments when somebody else’s faith helps carry you.

What Is God Speaking to me today?:

- We like God being in control as long as His plan looks like our plan, but real faith says: “God, even when I do not understand the plan, I trust the One who made it.”
- Sometimes peace comes from surrendering control of the situation to God.

Trust God With The _____

- **Read:** Philippians 1:19–26. Paul does not know exactly what is going to happen, but he is confident about one thing: Whatever happens, God will be glorified.
- Some of us want God to show us the entire plan before we trust Him, but you can still know this: God is already standing in the tomorrow you are worried about today.

Do Not Walk Through Difficult Seasons _____

- **Read:** Philippians 1:27–30. Paul closes the chapter by talking about the church standing together.
- This is part of what God is building here at River of Life, because there will be moments when your faith helps carry somebody else, and there will be moments when somebody else’s faith helps carry you.

What Is God Speaking to me today?:
