



There's Purpose In This Pain | Shawn Johnson | 6.19.22

Weekly Study

SHARE

Welcome to week 4 of our series Grit! This weekend Shawn Johnson spoke about Paul's experience in prison and how he was able to make an impact even when life was difficult. He gave us four practical statements that we can apply to our own lives so that we can find the grit to push forward with purpose. Right before Jesus ascended to heaven, he left us with a call to action. We refer to this as the great commission and Jesus is giving us purpose and a mission.

Before we dive in, take some time to check in with your group and ask the following questions:

What was the most memorable part of your week so far?

What is your favorite thing about this time of year?

GROW

Read Philippians 1:1-14

After Paul's conversion he lived a very purpose driven but difficult life. He was thrown in prison several times, flogged close to death, received the forty lashes five different times, beat with rods, stoned, in shipwrecks, nearly starved to death, and the list goes on and on. In the midst of all this he lives a life "filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ". He also then urges on the church in Philippi to do the same.

Do you find that your relationship with Christ grows stronger or more distant in times of difficulty?

Can you recall a season of difficulty prior to your relationship with Christ? If so, what has changed?

How do we change our perspective in times of difficulty from frustration and self-pity into an opportunity to get stronger and advance the gospel as Paul says in verse 12?

M O V E

This week Shawn made four statements that we can apply to our situation.

1. My situation doesn't get to steal my calling.
2. There's purpose in pain.
3. Stay in the people business.
4. Never underestimate what I have to offer.

Read Ephesians 2:1-10

We were once imprisoned by our guilt, shame, and sin "But God, being rich in mercy" rescued us. Regardless of our current life situation, because of Jesus, we are able stand in righteousness before God. This changes the perspective of our situation and brings purpose to it. Verse 10 says that we are created in Christ for good works. Therein lies the power that we have in order to find purpose in our pain and to make a difference in the world around us.

When was the last time you sat down to think about your calling? Take a moment to allow everyone in your group to think about what they feel called to.

Has your calling been influenced by the pain or difficulty that you've experienced?

In what ways are you able to use past experiences to help others?

Sometimes before we can turn our pain into purpose, we need to allow God to bring healing into those situations.

Are there places in your heart that you may feel God wants to bring healing so that He can use it to help others?

Read Romans 12:6-8

We are all made uniquely with different giftings. We also have unique experiences that shape our relationships and motivation in life. This week Shawn said, "We often overestimate what we could do with what we don't have, and we underestimate what we can do with what we do have." God wired us a certain way and the more we become

the best version of who God made us to be, the more we will experience life to the full. Comparison robs us of our gifts. While in chains Paul wrote a letter that ended up being four books in our New Testament bible. What may have felt to him like a last-ditch effort to communicate what God put on his heart has impacted the whole world.

As a group, take some time to encourage the giftings that you see in each other.

TAKE HOME: Read through Philippians this week. It's only 3 pages long but take the time to circle or highlight every time Paul does something or hopes for something good in the life of someone else. Amid his difficulty his focus is on others and the byproduct in his life is joy.

P R A Y

Pray for each other. Invite each other into a space you may need healing or comfort. If you're in a co-ed group, it may be easier to break up into groups to more freely share.