

Stretching Season



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Philippians 1:12-20 — Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that **what has happened to me** has actually served to **advance the gospel**.¹³ As a result, it has **become clear** throughout the whole palace guard and to **everyone** else that I am in chains for Christ.¹⁴ And because of my chains, most of the **brothers and sisters have become confident** in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.¹⁵ It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill.¹⁶ The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel.¹⁷ The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains.¹⁸ But what does it matter? The important thing is that **in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached**. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice,¹⁹ for I know that **through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance**.²⁰ I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

THE STRETCH PROTECTS YOU

2 Corinthians 4:8-10 — We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair;⁹ persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.¹⁰ We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 — Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

THE STRETCH PREPARES YOU

Philippians 1:13-14 — As a result, it has **become clear** throughout the whole palace guard and to **everyone** else that **I am in chains for Christ**.¹⁴ And because of my chains, most of the **brothers and sisters have become confident** in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

James 1:2 NLT — Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy.

THE STRETCH GROWS YOU

Philippians 1:19-20 — for I know that **through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance**.²⁰ I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

John 11:4 NLT — But when Jesus heard about it he said, "Lazarus's sickness will not end in death. No, it happened for the glory of God so that the Son of God will receive glory from this."