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We continue steadfastly in prayer, and in the
ministry of the word.

Acts 6: 4 ASV

Welcome to Bible Study and Prayer
POWER OF POSITIVE PURPOSE

Wednesday 19 July, 2017 A.D.
(Anno Domini – In the year of our Lord)

Wednesday 25 Tammuz, 5777

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- Welcome to Bible Study and Prayer.
- **Let our voices unite in prayer.**
- My Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Luke 11: 2
- I know effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. James 5: 16
- I come boldly unto the throne of grace, that I may obtain mercy, and find grace to fulfill divine calling. Hebrews 4: 16

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- Commissioned to make disciples of all nations, observing all things You command, always, to the end of the world; baptizing into the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit: Matthew 28: 19-20
- give me utterance to make known the mystery of the gospel, Ephesians 6: 19
- increasing the number of Your disciples; who are obedient to the faith. Acts 6: 7

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- May my speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt; Colossians 4: 6
- preaching, reproof, rebuking, and exhorting with all longsuffering and doctrine. II Timothy 4: 2
- Full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, Acts 6: 5
- may whatsoever I do in word or deed, all be in the name of Adhonai Jesus, giving thanks to Elohim and the Father by Him. Colossians 3: 17

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- May I be blameless and harmless, without rebuke, Phillipians 2: 15
- shaking off the dust from my feet, a testimony against them that receive You not, when I depart them. Luke 9: 5
- May I rejoice I didn't run or labor in vain, at the day of Christ. Phillipians 2: 16
- May Jesus Christ be glorified in me, and me in Jesus Christ. II Thessalonians 1: 12

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- Asking all in Jesus name. John 14: 14
- Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as in heaven. Matthew 6: 10
- For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Matthew 6: 13 Amen.
- It is not about and never was about anything we do for the Kingdom of God, but when we allow Almighty God to work in us and through us. When we reflect His glory we become salt and light to a lost and dying world. We begin to

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understand the horrible sacrifice of a loving God and Jesus Christ. We have responsibility to a higher calling and purpose in life committed to His Lordship. For God's word to have the desired results in our life we must listen and obey!

- **Text:** Revelation 1: 1-2 ; 5-6 ASV

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, unto His servants, sent and signified by His angel unto His servant John; who bare witness of the word

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of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. He loosed us from our sins by His blood; and made us to be a kingdom, to be priests unto His God and Father.

- Jesus Christ, the ruler of the kings of the earth has decreed Christians are to be priests to God.
- Priest means bridge builder.

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- In your minds eye, picture a network of islands in a vast sea. The islands are connected by a variety of bridges. The islands are people. The bridges are relationships. Some islands have many bridges, some just a few, and a few islands have no bridges at all. The bridges are of all varieties. There are rickety footbridges, some rope bridges, narrow wooden bridges, strong steel bridges, and some are just a fallen log.

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- No island is completely self-sufficient. Talents and resources that can improve the primitive island life style are available on other islands.
- If I want those talents and resources I need to have a bridge that will allow me to carry them over.
- My wants and needs determine the type of bridge required. I can bring a pound of coffee over a fallen log. I can't bring furniture or bricks

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and cement unless I have a bigger stronger bridge.

- God's Word is carried by priests. Depending how the Word is received determines how much work must be done to the bridge. If the people recognize the messenger as a pastor or ministry leader, there is a certain amount he can bring. If they receive him as an author and as a teacher, then there's more he can bring. If they accept him as a prophet, still more, and if

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they welcome him as an apostle, then he can bring the entire arsenal for them.

- God's messengers look to see what kind of bridge exists to the people he brings God's Word to. If it is a small bridge with less trust or understanding, of the things of God, he is able to bring less over the bridge, perhaps just the ministry of a pastor. After a while, with the fullness of time, the bridge becomes strong enough to support more ministry.

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- God calls priests after this order:
- **Text:** Hebrews 7: 3 & 1: 7 KJV

Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like to the Son of God; stays a priest continually.

God calls His ministers a flame of fire:

- Read the power of Paul's positive purpose:

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- **Text:** Philippians 1:12–21ASV

Now I would have you know, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the progress of the gospel; so that my bonds became manifest in Christ throughout the whole praetorian guard, and to all the rest; and that most of the brethren in the Lord, being confident through my bonds, are more abundantly bold to speak the word of God without fear. Some indeed preach Christ even

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of envy and strife; and some also of good will: the one do it of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel; but the other proclaim Christ of faction, not sincerely, thinking to raise up affliction for me in my bonds. What then? only that in every way, whether in pretence or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and therein I rejoice, yea, and will rejoice. For I know that this shall turn out to my salvation, through your supplication and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my earnest

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expectation and hope, that in nothing shall I be put to shame, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

- Those who tie their happiness in life to the visible circumstances around them are doomed to disappointment in life. The key to joy in life is to have a clearly defined purpose for living, which is the foundation on which we build our actions, our affections, and our aspirations in

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life. Only when we have a purpose in life beyond our temporary peace, pleasure, and prosperity will we have the foundation for a joyful life.

- Joy In Unwelcome Circumstances
Paul explains the source of his abiding joy while in prison that was powerful enough to overcome unwelcome circumstances, unfair criticism, and even an uncertain future. Paul's one purpose in life was to glorify Christ. Paul viewed his life not through the lens of personal comfort and

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prosperity, but through the lens of God's glory. As Paul viewed his present circumstances from an eternal perspective, he could rejoice because his temporary suffering was serving an eternal purpose. Paul's imprisonment provided two main things:

- Contact with Unbelievers

Paul was consumed with one passion in life: to glorify Christ. Specifically, he wanted to preach the gospel in Rome. He wanted to go to Rome as a preacher, but he ended up going as a

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prisoner. What do you think Paul talked about while being chained to a Roman guard for hours at a time? He used his imprisonment as an opportunity to share the gospel.

- **Courage for Believers**

Paul's situation was a topic of regular discussion in Rome. Due to his courage, many of the Christians in Rome were bold in sharing Christ in their everyday conversations. If our life purpose is to glorify Christ, even unwelcome circumstances can be marvelous opportunities

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in disguise.

- Joy In Spite of Unfair Criticism
When your life purpose is to glorify Christ, you become amazingly unconcerned with the criticism of others. This group's motive in preaching the gospel was to get people to follow them; Paul's motive was to get people to follow Christ. Notice Paul is not condoning evil motives! He was so consumed by his desire to see Christ glorified that he refused to be bothered by the impure motives of those who

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desire to hurt him. That is what a Christ-centered purpose does for you.

- Joy In The Face Of An Uncertain Future
Imagine what it would be like to wait not days or weeks but years to find out whether or not you would be executed for your faith. Yet Paul is certain that regardless of the verdict, he will be delivered—whether that means delivered out of prison or delivered out of this world into the next one. Whether he lived or died made no

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difference to him because either way Christ would be magnified.

- When unbelievers look at our lives and see the way we handle unwelcome circumstances, unfair criticism, and an uncertain future, we become a lens—a telescope that makes Christ look bigger, closer, and more real. Jesus is magnified through our difficulty. What is your life purpose? Your answer will determine how you respond to unwelcome circumstances, unfair criticism, and an uncertain future.

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- Jesus came to give His life as ransom for many. His death demonstrated God's unconditional love for us and His desire to forgive sin. He came to reconcile those who were alienated and redeem that which was lost. He came to teach those who lived in darkness and to reveal the Father's heart to His creation. Nowhere is God's mercy and compassion more clearly demonstrated than grace; **God's Redemption At Christ's Expense.**

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- Forgiveness and healing are tied together with Jesus suffering and death. Jesus not only purchased our freedom from sin, but our freedom from sickness.
- It is God's will that all people receive salvation. Men and women are saved by the preaching of the gospel. If the gospel is not preached, no one hears it. If they do not hear it, they are not saved (Romans 10: 14-15).

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- Salvation comes when men and women cooperate with God in preaching the gospel and when they receive it. If men are not saved it is not because God doesn't want them to be, but because man has not effectively preached the gospel or he has rejected it.
- The bottom line is: God's will about salvation is known. He wants all people to be saved, even if many are not.

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- God does not force His will upon anyone. He has chosen to limit the enforcement of His will so that we might exercise free will.
- In addition, He has given key roles to non-human beings. We must account for the interaction of angels and demons, which also have free will.
- God has limited His involvement in the affairs to the degree that He allows Satan and his minions to oppose every aspect of His free will.

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- Right now! You have specific authority as a Christian, from Jesus, and you never have to wonder again, to go into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieves shall be condemned. Signs shall accompany them that believe.

Mark 16: 15-17 ASV

- Can milk or meat be carried over your bridge?

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You are invited to join us!

*Lord willing,
we continue steadfastly in the apostles' teaching
and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and
prayers every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.*