

Challenge 5 - Your Energy Source for Purpose

Challenge Scenario:

When we want to better visualize or conceptualize something we typically create a model. Whether it's a logical, physical, or mathematical model, it is meant to help us to understand, define, quantify and predict or simulate behavior. By referring to a model we can better examine, evaluate and discuss the object or concept with others. In our faith life, we too need models to help us examine and evaluate what a life lived out in faith looks like. For this challenge let's look at the apostle Paul as a model, essentially someone that has been there, done that and succeeded. Just what is it that can motivate and empower a life of faith and purpose for a lifetime?

Scripture Reading:

Read Colossians 1:24-29 in "The Message" Bible version. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+1%3A24-29&version=MSG>

Challenges:

1. Do a web search on "Christians suffering around the world." List 4 or more types of suffering being experienced by your fellow believers.
 - i. Discovery:
 - ii. Discovery:
 - iii. Discovery:
 - iv. Discovery:
2. The context here is that the apostle Paul is in jail in Rome awaiting trial. He was accused by Jewish religious leaders to have broken a number of religious laws (which he had not) and the Jewish leadership wanted to put him to death. To get a fair trial, Paul appealed to Caesar because although he was a Jew it was his right having also been born a Roman citizen. (Optional reading: Acts 21-26)

In the passage for this challenge, Paul writes, *"There's a lot of suffering to be entered into in this world — the kind of suffering Christ takes on. I welcome the chance to take my share in the church's part of that suffering."*

What do you think the apostle Paul wants his readers to consider about suffering and its part in the life of faith?

3. From verses 26-29, develop a model from the testimony of the apostle Paul along the following dimensions. What do you see as his:
 - Motivation?
 - Purpose?
 - Message?
 - Energy source?
4. Now that you have a model that helps predict or simulate behavior. Choose one of your real-world, faith-challenging situations from above and work through how your model would respond to that situation across these dimensions motivation, purpose, message and energy source. In your #YourFaith2Action below, plan to share your thoughts with someone else.

#Hack4Faith:

Write 4 faith phrases that are your takeaways from this challenge.

1. Phrase -
2. Phrase -
3. Phrase -
4. Phrase -

#YourFaith2Action:

From your Faith phrases above, write 2 action statements.

1. Statement -
2. Statement -

Prayer:

Write a prayer.

Discussion Preparation:

- List any questions you would like to discuss.
- Identify 2 key discoveries you would like to share.

Online Resources:

- The Message version of the Bible

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