

**Message Notes:**  
**When God Is Working and You Can't See It**

Series: Keep Moving  
Dr. John Frank Howard  
Kingswood Church  
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**Philippians 1:21–30**

<sup>21</sup> For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. <sup>22</sup> If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! <sup>23</sup> I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; <sup>24</sup> but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. <sup>25</sup> Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, <sup>26</sup> so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

<sup>27</sup> Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel <sup>28</sup> without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. <sup>29</sup> For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, <sup>30</sup> since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.  
{NIV}

**Mainline: God is \_\_\_\_\_ in your  
\_\_\_\_\_ than you can \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ in your \_\_\_\_\_ than you can  
\_\_\_\_\_.**

† **The Word...on the Word:**

What do you do when you cannot see what comes next? Paul writes Philippians from a place he never would have chosen, facing a future he cannot control. Yet his words are filled with purpose, confidence, joy, and expectation. Philippians 1:21–30 shows us a faith that does not depend on perfect circumstances or complete answers. It teaches us how to live faithfully today while trusting God with tomorrow. When the way forward is uncertain, we can still believe God is at work, take the next faithful step, and expect that our present circumstances are not the end of the story.

† **Study Questions For Further Reflection:**

(1) Paul connects continuing to live with “**fruitful labor**.” Where do you see opportunities for your life to bear fruit in your present circumstances? {Philippians 1:21–22}

(2) Paul expects his future to include the spiritual progress and joy of others. Who might God be calling you to encourage or help move forward in faith? {Philippians 1:24–26}

(3) Paul begins with the words, “**Whatever happens**.” What would change if your faithfulness were determined less by your circumstances and more by your commitment to Jesus Christ? {Philippians 1:27}

(4) Paul tells the church to stand firm together without being frightened by opposition. Where are fear or resistance tempting you to pull back? {Philippians 1:27–28}

(5) Paul speaks honestly about struggle without allowing struggle to become the whole story. What current difficulty do you need to see from a larger perspective of faith? {Philippians 1:29–30}

## ✚ Put It Into Practice:

### (1) Do Today What You Already Know to Do

You do not need the whole plan to take the next step.

**How to live it:** Each morning ask, “**What is one faithful thing I can do today?**” Then make it specific. Make the call. Begin the task. Encourage the person. Offer forgiveness. Pray about the decision. Do what you know to do rather than waiting to know everything that comes next.

### (2) Don't Let Yesterday Predict Tomorrow

What happened before does not get to decide what God can do next.

**How to live it:** Identify one disappointment that has lowered your expectations. When you catch yourself using the past to predict the future, replace that thought with a promise from Scripture. Thank God for what He has already done, then deliberately pray with expectation about what still lies ahead.

### (3) Look for Signs Where God Is Already at Work

When you can't see the whole future, look for God in today.

**How to live it:** At the end of each day, name one place where you saw God at work. It could be an encouraging conversation, unexpected help, a new idea, growing patience, an opportunity, or renewed faith. Write it down. Over time, you will begin to recognize that God was moving long before you could see where He was leading.

## ✚ Bible Passages for Further Study:

### ~2 Corinthians 4:16–18

<sup>16</sup>Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup>For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. <sup>18</sup>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. {NIV}

### ~Deuteronomy 31:8

<sup>8</sup>The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. {NIV}

### ~Isaiah 45:2–3

<sup>2</sup>I will go before you and will level the mountains; I will break down gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron. <sup>3</sup>I will give you hidden treasures, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who summons you by name. {NIV}

### ~Isaiah 43:18–19

<sup>19</sup>See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. {NIV}

### ~1 Corinthians 2:9

<sup>9</sup>However, as it is written:

“What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived”—the things God has prepared for those who love him. {NIV}

✚ **Prayer:** Father, thank You that You are already at work in places we cannot yet see. Give me faith to trust You with tomorrow and courage to live faithfully today. Help me expect progress, recognize opportunity, and believe that difficulty cannot cancel Your purpose for me and Kingswood Church. Open our eyes to what You are doing around us and within us. Give us courage to take the next step You place before us, confident that You are already preparing the way ahead. In Jesus' name, Amen.