



Joy That Holds: Be Like a Star

August 8 & 9, 2026

Philippians 2:12-30

Opener: Luther said: "Someone who is trying to be a Christian is trying to hold on to something. The one who is a Christian knows they are being held by someone." What do you think?

Go Deeper: *(Exploring the Bible)*

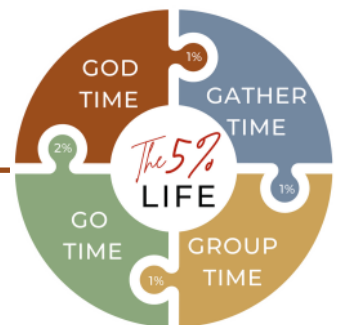
1. Was Paul feeling good about his life in this chapter, good enough to give "advice?"
 2. What's the one (or two) powerful words he used in verse 17 and 18 about himself and his readers?
 3. Who almost died while helping Paul? God had mercy on him and Paul.
 4. What's it like to "shine like a star" in our world today?
 5. What and who gives us the power to shine?
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Live It: *(Applying to Daily Life)*

1. What kind of effort does it take to do what Paul is urging the Christians to do?
2. "Fear and trembling." Do the words "awe and reverence" help your understanding?
3. Check Matthew 5, and think about what "salt of the earth" means.
4. Now read the first verses from Romans 12 and think about what is being said.



GOD TIME:



Daily Bible Readings (August 9-15)

Sun:	Philippians 2:12-18	Shine Like Stars, Hold to Word of Life
Mon:	Philippians 2:19-30	Timothy & Epaphroditus
Tues:	Romans 12:1-2	Offer a Living Sacrifice
Wed:	Philippians 3:12	Jesus Has Taken Hold of You
Thurs:	Matthew 5:13-16	Salt of the Earth, Light of the World
Fri:	Philippians 2:5-8	Have the Same Mindset as Jesus
Sat:	Philippians 2:9-11	A Name Above Every Name