

I. Introduction

- A. Welcome to Pathway. We have been listening to God's wisdom here in this book called Philippians.
1. **Our series is called Quit Telling Yourself I Can't.**
 2. **Today's message: Quit Riding It's A Small, Small World**
- B. Welcome to Pathway. We're in our series Quit Telling Yourself I Can't, and today we're tackling the lie that you can't handle a life of real faith.
- C. It's 9:00 PM in the Magic Kingdom. The fireworks are over, the kids are sugar-crashing, and you have just enough energy for one last ride. Your family is arguing over two choices.
- D. Option one: "It's a Small World." You know the deal. A calm boat, a predictable track, and a song that will follow you into eternity. It is safe. It is comfortable. And for anyone who's had a rough week, that little boat sounds like heaven. I get it. We all crave a life where the boat doesn't rock.
- E. But let's be honest: a life with zero risk isn't a life; it's a prison. It's turning your back on the courage to really live.
- F. Then there's option two. Across the park is a ride that doesn't promise safety; it promises a drop. The Tower of Terror. You step in, you ascend, and then... you fall. Faster than gravity. And in that moment, you feel undeniably, exhilaratingly alive.
- G. That is the life of faith. It's not a predictable loop; it's a series of drops.
1. The drop when you get the diagnosis.
 2. The drop when the business fails.
 3. The drop when the relationship ends.
- H. And it's in that freefall that we scream, "I can't!" I can't handle the pressure. I can't take the risk. I can't dream again because I've been burned too many times. Please, God, just put me back on the little boat.
- I. Today, we're going to look at a man who lived in a permanent state of freefall. The Apostle Paul. His life was a highlight reel of shipwrecks, prisons, and riots. And yet, writing from a jail cell in Philippians chapter 4, he sounds like the most joyful and secure man on earth.
- J. He's about to show us a secret: You weren't built for the endless safe and protected loop. You were built for the adventure of the drop and the freewill.
1. You were built for the courage to really live.

II. Text

- A. *"How I praise the Lord that you are concerned about me again. I know you have always been concerned for me, but you didn't have the chance to help me. Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. For I can do all things through Christ, who gives me strength. Even so, you have done well to share with me in my present difficulty. As you know, you Philippians were the only ones who gave me financial help when I first brought you the Gospel and then traveled on from Macedonia. No other church did this. Even when I was in Thessalonica you sent help more than once. I don't say this because I want a gift from you. Rather, I want you to receive a reward for your kindness. At the moment I have all I need—and more! I am generously supplied with the gifts you sent me with Epaphroditus. They are a sweet-smelling sacrifice that is acceptable and pleasing to God. And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus. Now all glory to God our Father forever and ever! Amen."* (Philippians 4:10-20, NLT)

III. Six Motivators:

- A. Now, how did he do it? How did he find contentment and strength in the middle of a freefall?
- B. To understand his secret, we're going to look at it through a modern lens you might be familiar with. The performance strategist Tony Robbins identified six core human needs—or as I call them, Motivators—that drive everything we do. He didn't invent them; he observed what God designed into our souls.
- C. Paul understood these motivators. But he didn't fuel them with self-help; he fueled them with Jesus Christ. And in this passage, he gives us a masterclass on how a soul anchored in Christ can handle any drop.
- D. Let's break it down, starting with: Certainty.

IV. Six Motivators

- A. 1. Certainty
1. This is your survival instinct. Predictability
- B. 2. Variety/Uncertainty
1. As much as you crave safety, if you get too much of it, you get bored. You need spice.
- C. 3. Significance
1. You need to feel like you matter.
- D. 4. Connection
1. You are hardwired for friendships, relationships, and love.
- E. 5. Growth - Robbins calls these fulfillment needs.
1. If you aren't growing, you're dying. You have an innate fire to expand, to learn, to become more than you were yesterday.
- F. 6. Contribution
1. You need to give beyond yourself. You need to know that your life isn't just about your survival, but about your legacy.
 - a) These six drives are truly human. They are the design specs of your soul. I think they're biblical, and I'm going to show you them in our very section of the Bible today.
 - b) But I also think Tony is missing the most important one of all. That's coming.

- c) You might not have noticed, but in that paragraph of the Bible we just read, there's a Masterclass on Living a Full Life. In these few verses, he shows you what it looks like when those six motivations in your heart are both fueled and fed by Christ.
- d) Let's break it down.

V. Masterclass on Motivation

A. 1. Certainty

1. *"But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content."* (Philippians 4:10-11)
2. Here is the lie most people believe: You define Certainty as a full savings account, a happy marriage, and a 10-year plan that actually works. You think certainty is control of your life and your world.
3. But when he writes these words, Paul is in prison. He is chained to a Roman guard. He has zero control. He doesn't know if tomorrow he's getting a meal or an execution order.
4. And yet, he says, "I have learned to be content." Do you see what he is doing? He has moved the locus of his certainty from the condition of his external world to the condition of his internal world.
 - a) **It's not what's happening around you, but what's happening inside you that matters most.**
5. He doesn't know if he will live or if he will die. If Caesar will release him or decapitate him.
6. He doesn't know, but he's still okay. Why?
7. Because His certainty isn't based on what's about to happen; it's based on something inside him.
 - a) And that something inside him is a very strong faith in the One who holds what's about to happen the palm of his hand.
 - b) His soul has been restructured. His inner world has gone through rehab.
 - c) It's a rehab based on grace and truth (John 1:14).
8. The Greek word he uses for "content" is *autarkēs*. In his day, the Stoic philosophers loved this word as meaning being totally self-sufficient. But Paul hijacks the word. He's not merely self-sufficient; he's Christ-sufficient. It's not self-esteem; it's something better: Christ-esteem.
9. He has relocated his source of certainty from his circumstances to his Savior... because he embraces his identity in Christ. That's who he is, and that's how he sees himself... not the labels that the bullies, mean girls and absentee parents put on his past self.
 - a) **When you know who Christ is, you know who you are. And when you know who you are, you finally find the courage to really live.**
10. But the labels Jesus put on him the day he got saved.
 - a) And that gives you more certainty than any motivational speaker ever could.
11. Weirdly enough the second motivator is uncertainty.

B. 2. Variety/Uncertainty

1. *"I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need."* (Philippians 4:12)
2. This is the need for Variety.
3. Honestly, this verse is pretty scary.
4. I want the "abound" and "full" part, for sure. But I want nothing to do with the "abased" and "hungry" part.
5. Paul embraces the full spectrum of human experience. He is riding the Tower of Terror, and his eyes are wide open. He says, "I know how to do this."
6. Paul has developed spiritual range. True grit. Resilience.
 - a) He doesn't panic when the bills pile up; he doesn't get arrogant when the applause gets loud.
 - b) He's discovered God is just as present in the hunger as he is in the feast.
 - c) He rides the wave.
 - d) He experiences the uncertainties of life not as a threat to his safety, but as an adventure with his King and a journey with his Friend.
 - e) The courage to really live requires the refusal to numb yourself to the realities of life, and the faith to view every heartache from the perspective of heaven.
7. Many people break when the temperature changes. If it gets too hot, they quit. If it gets too cold, they freeze. But Paul is saying, "I can handle the fire, and I can handle the ice. I can handle the drop, and I can handle the climb."
8. Why? Because he knows the Pilot. He knows that whether he is high on the mountain or deep in the valley, the harness holds.

C. 3. Growth

1. *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."* (Philippians 4:13)
2. This addresses your need for Growth.
3. I think we have underestimated this verse. You have seen it on a coffee mug. You've seen it on a sneaker. You've seen it written in eye-black on a linebacker's face. A lot of Christians treat it like a magic spell to help us win a football game or close a business deal.
4. But Paul isn't playing a game. He is sitting in a cold, dark hole, facing execution. He isn't talking about achievement. He is talking about capacity.
5. He is saying, "I have grown. My soul has expanded. I have become strong enough to carry the weight of the prison, and I have become steady enough to carry the weight of the praise, and bold enough to possess the courage to really live regardless of the view from my window."
6. I can do all things.

- a) Hard things. Frustrating things. Sad things. Angering things. Painful things. Heartbreaking things. Frightening things. Overwhelming things. First Time things. Healing things. Bible things. God things. New life things.
 - b) All things.
 - 7. How? "...Through Christ who strengthens me."
 - 8. The first priority is you getting saved.
 - 9. The second priority is you growing mature as a Christian.
 - a) This is called spiritual growth. Some people call it discipleship.
 - 10. **Spiritual Growth in the process by which God reproduces in your soul the same structures of emotional health, mental health, thoughts, feelings, and instincts that Jesus had in his soul.**
 - 11. **Spiritual growth:**
 - a) **Grace Filled Bible Study (study)**
 - b) **Reliance on God the Holy Spirit (ask)**
 - (1) *"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in Spirit and Truth."* (John 4:24)
 - 12. This is where the muscle comes from to do all things through Christ.
 - 13. Grow in grace. Grow in the word. Grow mighty in spirit. Push away from the spiritual kiddie table. Join the feast of grace with the grown ups. Grow strong. Grow mature. Grow able to do all things. This is your great potential as a Christian.
- D. 4. Connection**
- 1. *"Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress."* (Philippians 4:14)
 - 2. Paul is thanking them for sending him money. That is the physical reality. But look at the spiritual reality.
 - 3. He doesn't say, "Thanks for the cash, I needed to buy lunch." He says, "You shared in my distress."
 - 4. That word "shared" is the Greek word:
 - a) **Fellowship = *Koinonia* = deep, gritty fellowship. It means "you got in the mud with me."**
 - 5. This is the theology of the overflow.
 - a) **Grace is not a product you buy; it is a power that flows through you.**
 - 6. You cannot buy God's favor—Jesus already paid for that in full. But when that grace hits your heart, it doesn't stop there. It overflows.
 - 7. When you hold onto your life, you remain small. You remain safe. You remain on the "Small World" boat. You give God a tip at the end of the ride.
 - 8. But when you seriously give—when you support the mission with your heart—you are connecting your heart to God and his work.
 - a) Paul is saying: "I am in prison, but because you supported me, you are in prison with me, lightening my load. I am standing before Caesar, but because you backed me, you are standing before Caesar with me, spotting for me, and holding up my arm."
 - 9. You stop being a spectator of the ride and you become part of the rescue team. You stop just consuming the ministry and you invest blood, sweat and tears to finance the front lines with your time, your service, your gifts, and your money.
 - 10. **No mission can thrive without people who pray, serve, and give. And grace will bring you there.**
- E. 5. Significance**
- 1. *"Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only."* (Philippians 4:15)
 - 2. **"But you only."**
 - 3. Let those three words haunt you for a second.
 - 4. We live in a culture desperate for Significance. We chase it with likes, with titles, with verification checkmarks. We are desperate to be seen, desperate to be "special."
 - 5. But Paul defines Significance differently. He defines it as rising above your troubles to serve Christ, the gospel, and the mission.
 - 6. Here is Paul's Mission...
 - a) Paul's Missionary Journeys
 - b) 10,000 miles. 3.5 times across the entire US. On foot, by boat, by conveyance, and as a prisoner.
 - 7. Paul looks at the map of all the churches he started—all the people who claimed to be with him, all the people who liked his sermons—and he realizes that when the bill came due, the room cleared out. Except for one group.
 - a) "No church shared... but you only."
 - 8. These were the true elites. And they weren't all rich. They weren't set for life. They gave when giving made no sense. In a world of talkers, they were the only walkers. They were the only ones who possessed the courage to really live generously in a world of hoarders... and when we get to heaven, we're all going to see what pathological hoarders we really were.
 - a) In a world where everyone else was too busy, too scared, or too obsessed with their own "Small World" safety, they were the only ones who slid into the seat next to Paul. "I've got your back."
 - 9. **Be the one who shows up when everyone else disappears. Be the one who gives when everyone else tips.**
 - 10. That makes you a statistical anomaly. That makes you rare. And in the eyes of Paul—and in the eyes of God—that beautiful church in Philippi became the most significant group of people on the planet, simply because they were the only ones.
- F. 6. CONTRIBUTION (Verses 16-17)**
- 1. *"For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account."* (Philippians 4:16-17)

2. The Philippians' generosity toward Paul is being recorded in heaven. Every single gift is credited, not only for Paul's sake, but for their sake.
 - a) **Giving to the mission of the gospel is like they're making deposits into an eternal savings account that will pay massive interest throughout eternity.**
3. This connects to Jesus's stunning promise:
 - a) *"But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal."* (Matthew 6:20)
4. Here's the gospel-soaked beauty: Paul is saying, "You're not giving to me. You're investing in eternity. And God sees it. He records it. He rewards it."
5. **This is pure grace.**
6. Paul doesn't want the Philippians to feel obligated to him. He wants them to understand that their generosity is being perfectly recorded and perfectly rewarded by the God of mercy and love.
7. The fuse is lit. The stage is set. But Paul isn't finished. He has one more thing to say. He has one more need to address—the one that Tony Robbins missed. The one that blows the roof off the whole building.
8. The Fireworks: The Seventh Need That Changes Everything
9. I said that Tony Robbins missed one basic human need.
 - a) Here it is:
10. **Transcendence.**
 - a) You have a need to know that the ceiling isn't the end. You have a need to know that the material world is not the only world. You need to know that right now, swirling around you, there is an unseen realm.
 - b) This is where the ride goes vertical. This is where we leave the "Small World" and enter the Supernatural.
 - (1) **"And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."**
 - c) Do you hear the thunder in that verse?
 - d) 1. The Singular Need
 - (1) First, look at the word "Need." Singular. You think you have a million needs. You need rent money, you need patience for your toddler, you need a break, you need a spouse. But God looks at your life and He sees one giant Grand Canyon. He sees a God-sized vacuum in your soul. The world tries to fill that vacuum with noise, with pills, with distractions. But God doesn't promise to throw a few rocks into the canyon. He promises to flood the canyon with Himself.
 - (2) 2. The Standard of the Supply (The Arsenal of Heaven) Second, and this is where the fireworks start, look at the words "According To."
 - (3) He does not supply your need "out of" His riches. He supplies your need "according to" His riches.
 - (4) If a billionaire tips a waiter twenty bucks, he gave out of his riches. It's a crumb. The waiter is still a waiter; the billionaire is still distant. But if the King of Glory adopts you, hands you the signet ring, and puts the entire treasury of the Kingdom at your disposal, He has given according to His riches.
 - (5) And what are His riches? Paul isn't talking about cash! He is writing this from a prison cell where he has seen earthquakes shake the foundations. He has seen chains fall off without a key. He has seen demons flee at the name of Jesus. He has seen angels stand beside him in the storm.
 - (6) God is not checking His wallet to see if He can afford to help you. He is looking at the riches of Glory. Christian: Quit presenting yourself as endlessly needy. You are not a beggar hoping for a scrap. You are a child of the King, standing in the center of a victory that has already been won.
 - e) This is where the courage to really, really really live comes from. It comes from mental health flowing down from heaven. It comes from emotional strength, flowing down from heaven. It comes from promises made by a Father who is faithful. It comes from love that never fails. It comes from a God who is never disturbed, never afraid, and never faces any emergency... Who is therefore the God of Peace who stands guard over your soul.
 - (1) The math will help you, but no math can calculate the blessings of heaven.
 - (2) Past experience can guide you, but no past experience can prepare you for a God who parts the sea, slays the Giants, and raises the dead.
 - (3) Financial experts can help you, but there is no accounting for the one who owns the cattle on 1000 hills and the mining rights to Jupiter.
 - (4) I believe in doctors and counsellors and lawyers, but my deepest faith is in my Healer, and my Comforter, and my Advocate in heaven.
 - (a) He is above all that I can ask or think.
 - (b) He is greater than all that I can see or fathom.
 - (c) He transcends all the wisdom of the wise and the power of the powerful.
 - (d) And this invisible, transcendent, creator God, is on my side, and if God is for me who can be against me?
 - (e) And all of this and more is my courage to really live.
 - (5) And that's why I say with Paul...
 - f) **"Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen." (Philippians 4:20)**