



# 9 *days*

a Philippians devotional

---

BY ELIZABETH FOIL

in association with  
*lace devotion*



# day 1

## HAVING FAITH IN TRIALS

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, <sup>19</sup> for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.<sup>[d]</sup> <sup>20</sup> I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. <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.

## Read Philippians 1:1-26

Focus on verses 19-24 but the other verses are important for context :) please read them. Paul knew what was happening actually had a bigger purpose than the present moment or even the pain it caused him. He trusted. He knew through the Holy Spirit that the things around him held one purpose; deliverance.

And not just his own.

"I eagerly expect and hope" as it says in verse 20.

To have sufficient courage.

Come what may.

Paul knew his situation. He knew that this time he might not make it out alive, but he knew even if it wasn't now that one day this would be the case.

No one makes it out of this world alive •but• those in Christ have eternal life on the other side. Forever with Christ. This is the promise.

So really, "to live is Christ and to die is gain."

To gain what? Well, to see what we have not yet had the pleasure to. Being face to face with our Creator. To gain complete freedom from body, pain, and a broken world.

Paul also knew living was his task until called home.

Why?

To live is Christ.

To live is to be on mission. He knew the task; share the Good News. Share Christ to the ends of the earth. Every tribe, tongue and nation. And do so every moment until He has planned. Selfishly Paul longed for Heaven because well, no more pain and the race would be complete.

But Paul knew this, the point was not only his deliverance but that of others.

That others would believe through his testimony / through his living.

Do you trust God is providing you with sufficient courage today?

No matter what it is you are facing, He has called you to live.

To live is Christ.

Be on mission.

You are dearly loved and fiercely delivered.

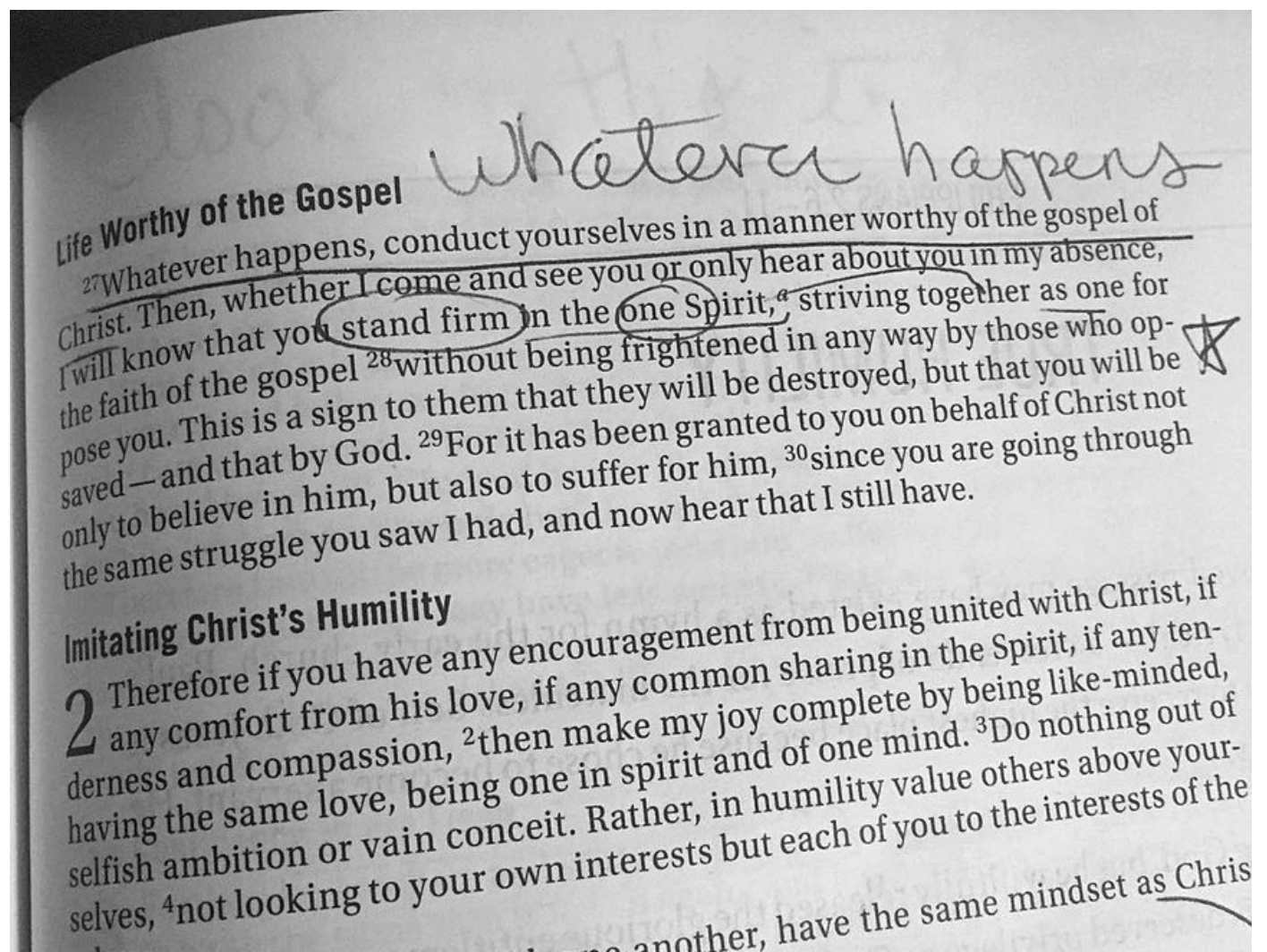
*Elizabeth Foil*



# day 2

## WHATEVER HAPPENS

Read Philippians 1:27-30



Whatever happens conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ. (1:27)

Whatever happens.

This means right now.

This means when things seem to fall apart.

This means when everything seems to come together.

This means no matter what.

Come what may, we are solely responsible for our actions. Us. You and me.

It is on us how we react to life despite what it throws at us.

I think it's needed to note here that we are to conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel -- meaning being like Christ. This does NOT mean we are ever worthy of it. We are broken people living in a broken world.

The Gospel: He didn't come because we are worthy but because to Him we are worth it. We couldn't do it so He chose to. For us.

The way we act matters not in striving for perfection but in being transformed - and this only happens with an ever personal relationship with our Savior.

We are to "stand firm in THE one Spirit" as verse 27 says. This Spirit is the Holy Spirit, given only after Christ had defeated death; risen again.

We are to strive "together as one for the faith of the Gospel". Called to unity. Why? Because ONE Spirit. He is in each believer... changing us through His presence.

If we are becoming more like Him we are each striving for the same thing: that all may hear and know of Him. That the Gospel will reach every nation.

There are still people who have not heard His name...

There are still people in your neighborhood who are lost, thinking there is nothing to live for...

There is still that girl in your class who thinks no one loves her and that guy who is convinced he will never be enough.

Yet we know the truth.

What if we lived like it?

Instead of living by fear.

Look at verse 28, "without being frightened in ANY WAY by those who oppose you."

This means that professor, that peer, that industry, the world... Remember no person is an enemy of you. Not one.

The enemy is sin. And for some it is still eating them alive.

We are not promised easy. In fact, Scripture reminds us often that struggles happen and trials come. But that through it all, the Gospel is this: we are promised His presence. We are promised more.

*Elizabeth Foil*



# day 3

## HUMILITY

### Read Philippians 2:1-11

#### Be Like Christ

**2** Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any <sup>[a]</sup>affection and compassion, **2** make my joy complete <sup>[b]</sup>by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. **3** Do nothing <sup>[c]</sup>from <sup>[d]</sup>selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; **4** do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. **5** Have this attitude <sup>[e]</sup>in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, **6** who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be <sup>[f]</sup>grasped, **7** but <sup>[g]</sup>emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. **8** Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death <sup>[h]</sup>on a cross. **9** For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, **10** so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father

We don't naturally put others first. Our nature because of sin is to put ourselves first. To have a selfish mentality. But the world has it wrong. We are not #1, Christ IS.

We are transforming into His likeness, this includes taking on His mindset, which is that of a servant.

Thinking of others before yourself but also being OBEDIENT to God.

Verse 8 lays this out for us, He was obedient in every way even as the Son of God.

Verse 4 reminds us as well, we are to look to the interests of others.

The best thing we can do for ourselves and those around us is to be obedient to the One who made us. He asks for our obedience because everything He asks is for our good and for the good of others as well!!!

It can be hard to take on this mindset, especially when we are constantly fed by the world that the task is simple: YOU first. But that's not at all our task in life. The point is this: becoming more like Jesus as we spend time with Him. We will naturally become more like Him the more we know Him and spend time with Him.

Our mindset shifts to Him.

That the only thing that matters at the end of our lives is this; did we love like Jesus and give life our all? Did we love everyone always? Did we introduce them to Jesus?

The status, bank account and the trophies hold nothing on those things.

The things that require humility.

As Rachel Scott once wrote in her journal:

Jesus

Others

You

That's the formula for true JOY.

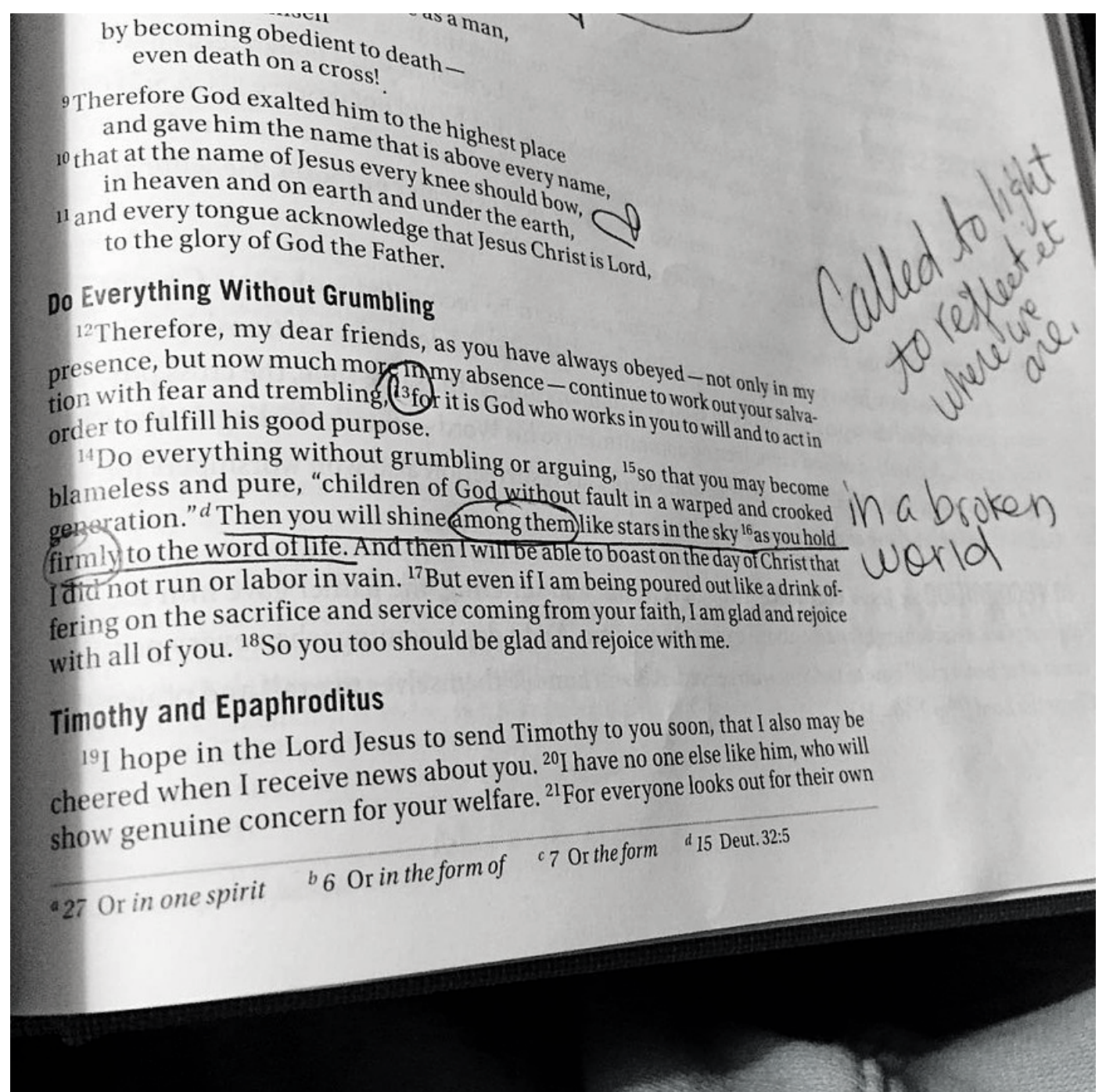
*Elizabeth Foil*



# day 4

## EVEN IN A BROKEN WORLD

### Read Philippians 2:12-18



Even in a broken world.

We are called to be light.

To be DIFFERENT.

And it all comes from One source... we aren't meant to be light by our own ambition or drive.

We ARE light because of Christ who is light, and His Spirit dwells in us. .

As we draw nearer to Him, the more we reflect His light. Just like when you get closer to an actual source of light... the closer you are to it the more light you see. The clearer the world around you becomes as well.

He is calling you to the light.

To "hold firmly to the word of life." (Verse 16).

After all, we merely REFLECT HIM.

. "For it is God who works IN you to will and to act in order to fulfill His GOOD PURPOSE."  
(Verse 13)

We are part of the good purpose!

. "Do everything without grumbling or arguing so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." (Verse 14)

It isn't about become perfect in ourselves. No, we will still make mistakes, but instead we are to go to Him and allow His light to shine so brightly in us that we also bear the light outward - for all to see.

For all to see Him in me.

In us.

Take heart, light shines brightest in dark places. Maybe you're overwhelmed by how dark your place of work is spiritually... or your school... or your home.

But get this: His light doesn't dim down for a moment.

His light is for all to see.

The question is, do you run to the light?

Do you reflect His light?

Go ahead, "shine AMONG THEM LIKE STARS in the sky"

The sky is dark... but the stars dance in the light.

Isn't that the beauty of the night sky?

Even in the darkest hour we can reflect His light.

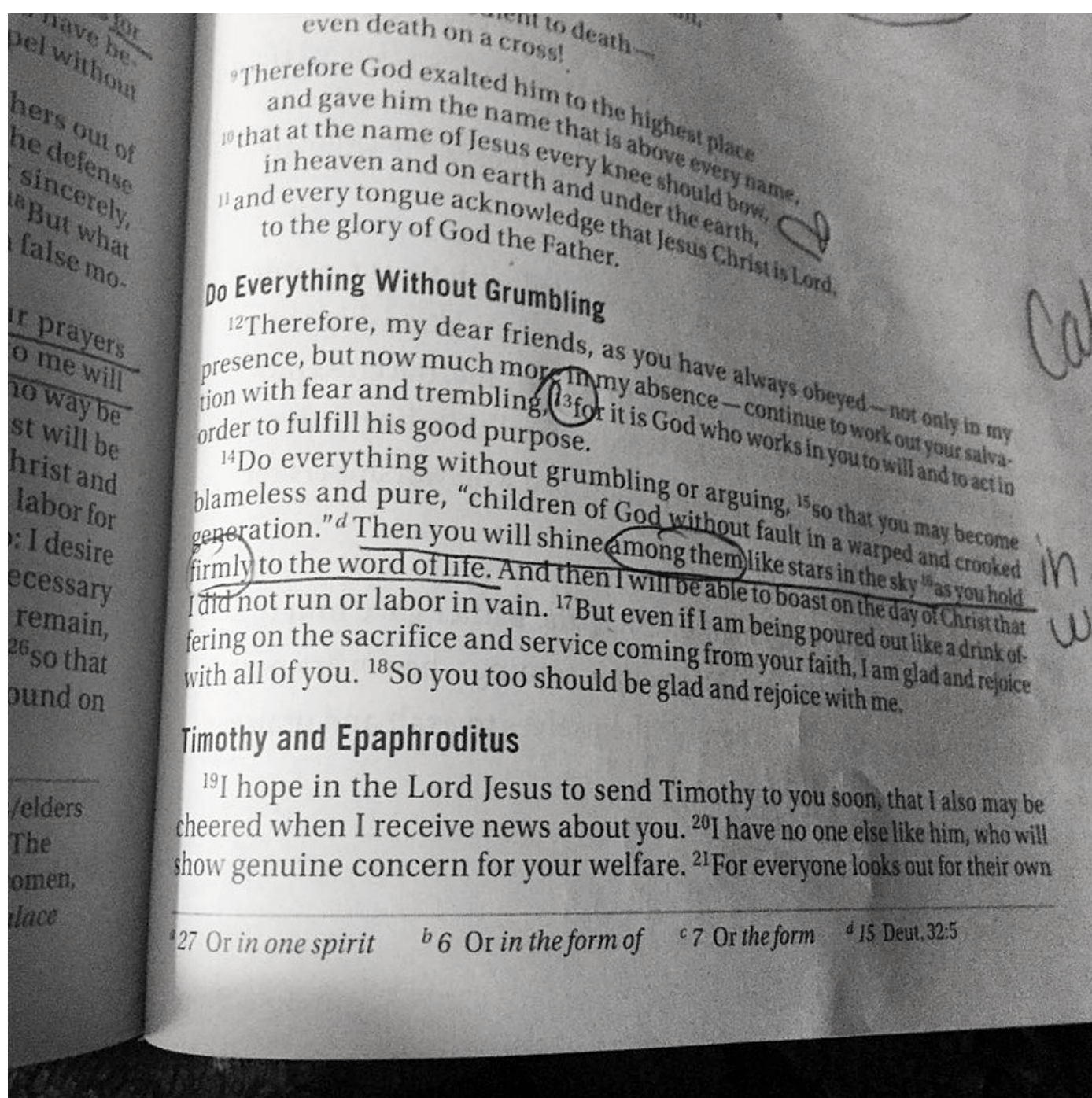
So, dance like a star in the sky shining best at the darkest of times, revealing its true source of light; Christ.

*Elizabeth Foil*



# day 5

## FILLED BY HIM ALONE



## Read Philippians 2:19-30

People who show genuine concern for others are rare.

Like Timothy, who was basically Paul's adopted son (in ministry).

Paul could trust Timothy.

He knew his heart.

He knew that his priority was simple; Christ first.

And where Christ is first, people are first.

This means loving one another and having a servant mentality.

It means looking to His interests.

It means loving others when it isn't convenient.

When it's less than favorable.

When it doesn't benefit you.

When it goes unnoticed.

When it matters most.

It means thinking on Christ.

We first have to be filled before we can overflow in love for others. Are you full?

What's the tank gauge in your heart say?

Maybe you're like me a little burnt out and today something less than what you had hoped for happened.

That maybe someone didn't show genuine concern or care for you when you needed it.

Take heart in this, Jesus sees you.

And He doesn't just sit or walk by. He is holding you.

He is filling you.

Allow Him to fix the broken gauge.

The tank you think can't be filled again.

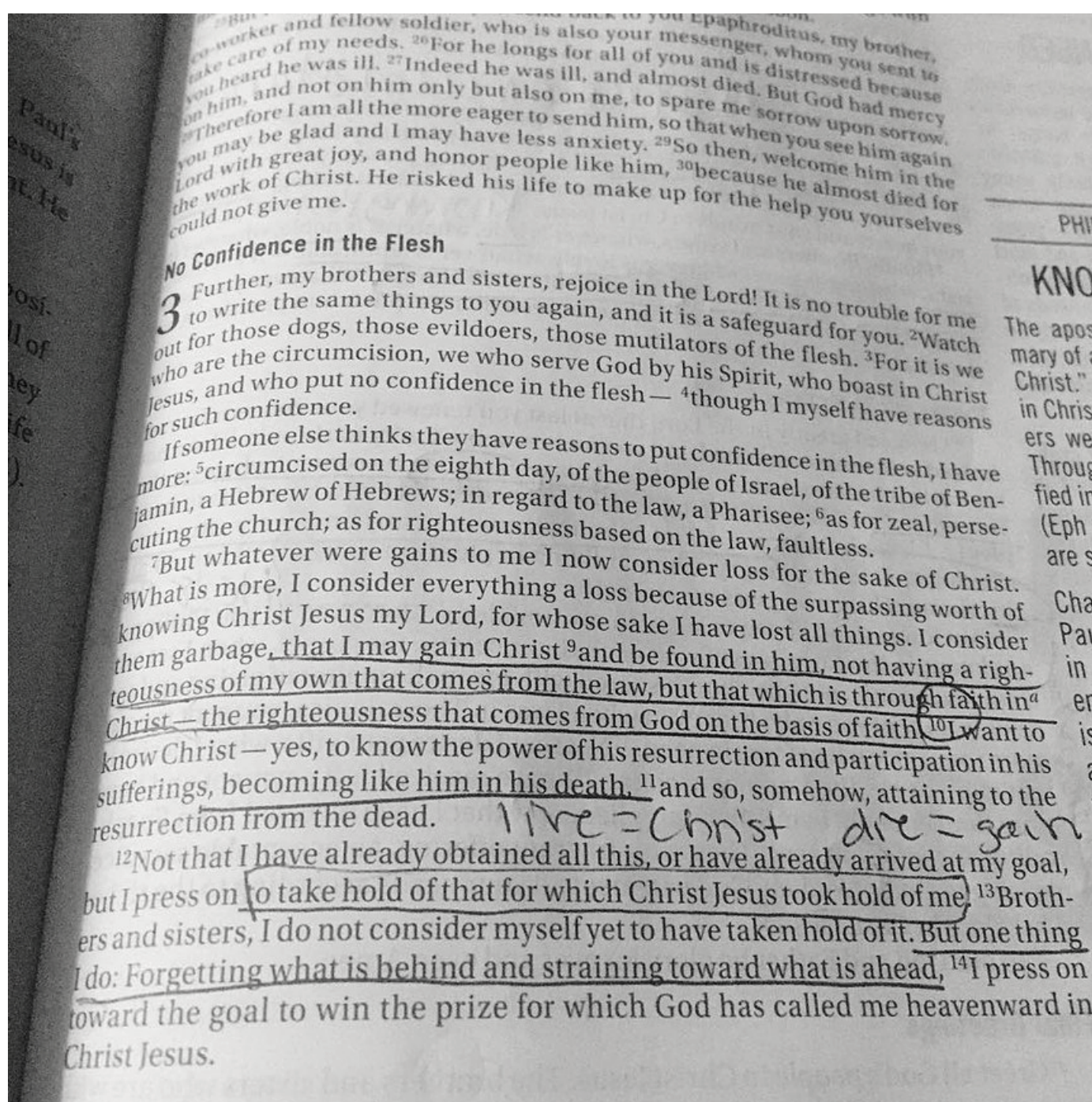
It can.

But only by Him.

Elizabeth Foil



## ENDURANCE



Watch out for those who want to distract and disrupt you from where God is directing you. There is nothing greater than knowing Him (verse 8). To gain Him is to be found in Him; having a relationship with Him. Only here can we have righteousness because it is HIS ALONE that makes the difference. We cannot (verse 9).

Become like Him.

Live life with Him.

Living with Christ and becoming like Christ. To live is Christ.

Look back at Philippians 1:21, "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."

And if we live in Him when we die we also gain. We gain because of His death and resurrection. Our lives count because of Him. They have value and purpose. Then also when we part this earth someday, this too will be gain. Because we then have eternity with Him.

The question isn't if we die but how we live.

Looking onward to Him. We are to let the past go and LIVE.

That means now.

Even if you aren't a fan of this season.

Or you expected different.

Press on.

To truly live is to live with Christ.

By our side. Every minute of every day. You are NEVER alone.

There is no confidence to be found in the flesh... only in Him. We can have all the confidence we need for THIS DAY.

I know it hurts right now but there is much beauty, yes even now.

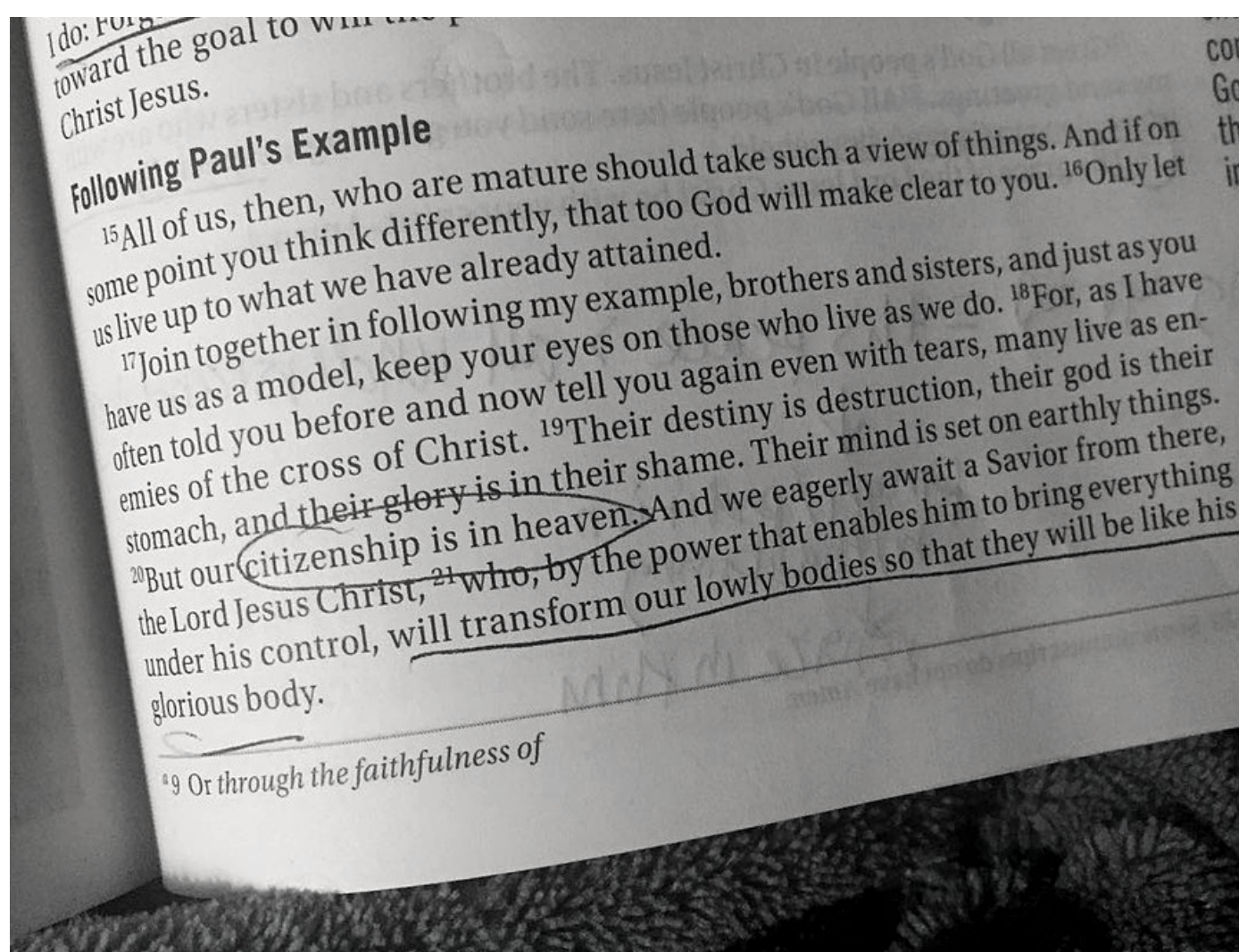
Elizabeth Foil



# day 7

## TEMPORARY HOME

Read Philippians 3:15-21



Dear sister this is not your home.

Sometimes we get caught up in the here and now. The earthy things that won't last.

That thing that really bothered you today, will probably be solved in five years and you'll forget the struggle of today.

But even in those struggles we WILL remember in five years, they're nothing compared to what should capture our greatest attention - that is being focused on Him.

Being focused on His plan. Because it makes the small and big things alike, come under perspective.

His perspective.

Maybe that job didn't work out but that doesn't mean you have no place. That doesn't mean He is not leading you now to the right one (note: not perfect but right).

Maybe that guy broke your heart, dear sister he isn't worth it. But I know what that feels like too. It hurts but under Heaven this heartbreak will pass. It will find its rightful place.

You will love your life again.

You will live this day.

The best way to live now is to keep His perspective. To remember at the end of the day and every moment between sunrise to sunset that this is HIS DAY.

And every day after.

And eternity.

The things that matter most today usually look like those seemingly small things. The "hey how are you?" & "can I pray over you right now" moments.

The moments that we go "I KNOW God sees me." The moments we tell others through loving them that He sees them too.

That His power is enough.

That He has it.

And under His power He will "transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like His glorious body."

Your citizenship is Heaven.

This is not your home but let me ask you this, does that neighbor know about your home?

Does she have the Godly perspective helping her to deal with the here and now?

This is not our home but our time here is important because while we are here we get to tell others about home.

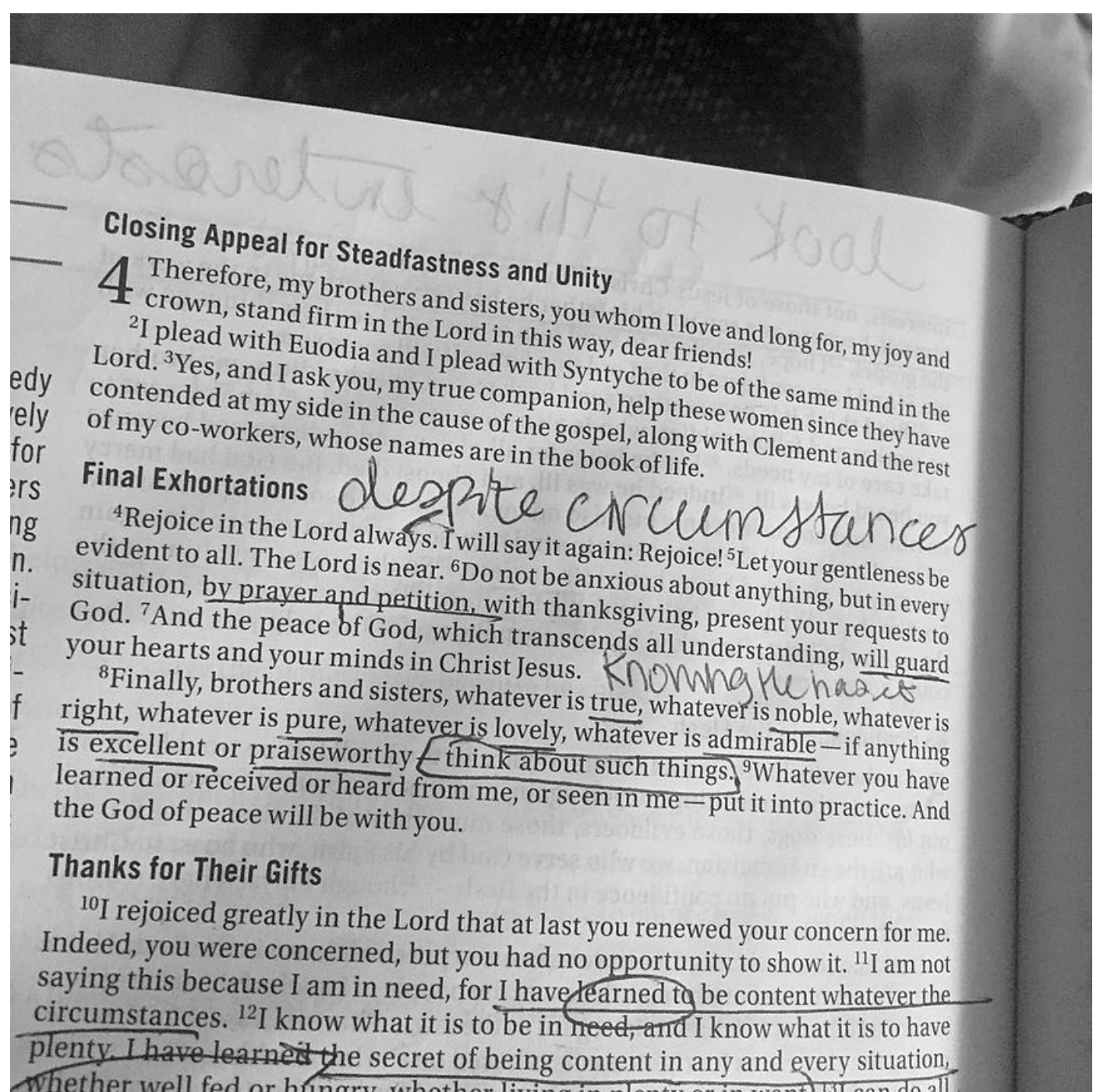
We get to invite them home. We get to introduce them to a King who sees them. Who thought them up into existence and has a place for them. We were made for His presence. And nothing less.

*Elizabeth Foil*



# day 8

## FAITH OVER FEELINGS



## Read Philippians 4:1-9

First off let us note this: Paul asks fellow believers to help each other and be united. Specifically in verse 3 we see him address not only men but women as "coworkers". All believers are coworkers of ministry. We are to stand united as citizens of Heaven. How amazing is it that at a time when women were looked down on in Roman society, God makes a point to continuously show them their value. Our value. He has made us. Both in His image.

Second point: Rejoice. It has nothing to do with circumstances. How contradicting does that seem? But joy never has ANYTHING to do with what's around. Instead it has everything to do with what is inside. Specifically WHO is inside. It is whose we are. Not even who we are.

Did you catch yourself being anxious or worried today? Instead, teach yourself to pray and petition God in those moments. When the enemy works hard to get you down, work all the more to see Him. He is right there. Choose faith over feelings. #preachingtomyself

Think on things that are:

• true • noble • right • pure • lovely • admirable; excellent/praiseworthy

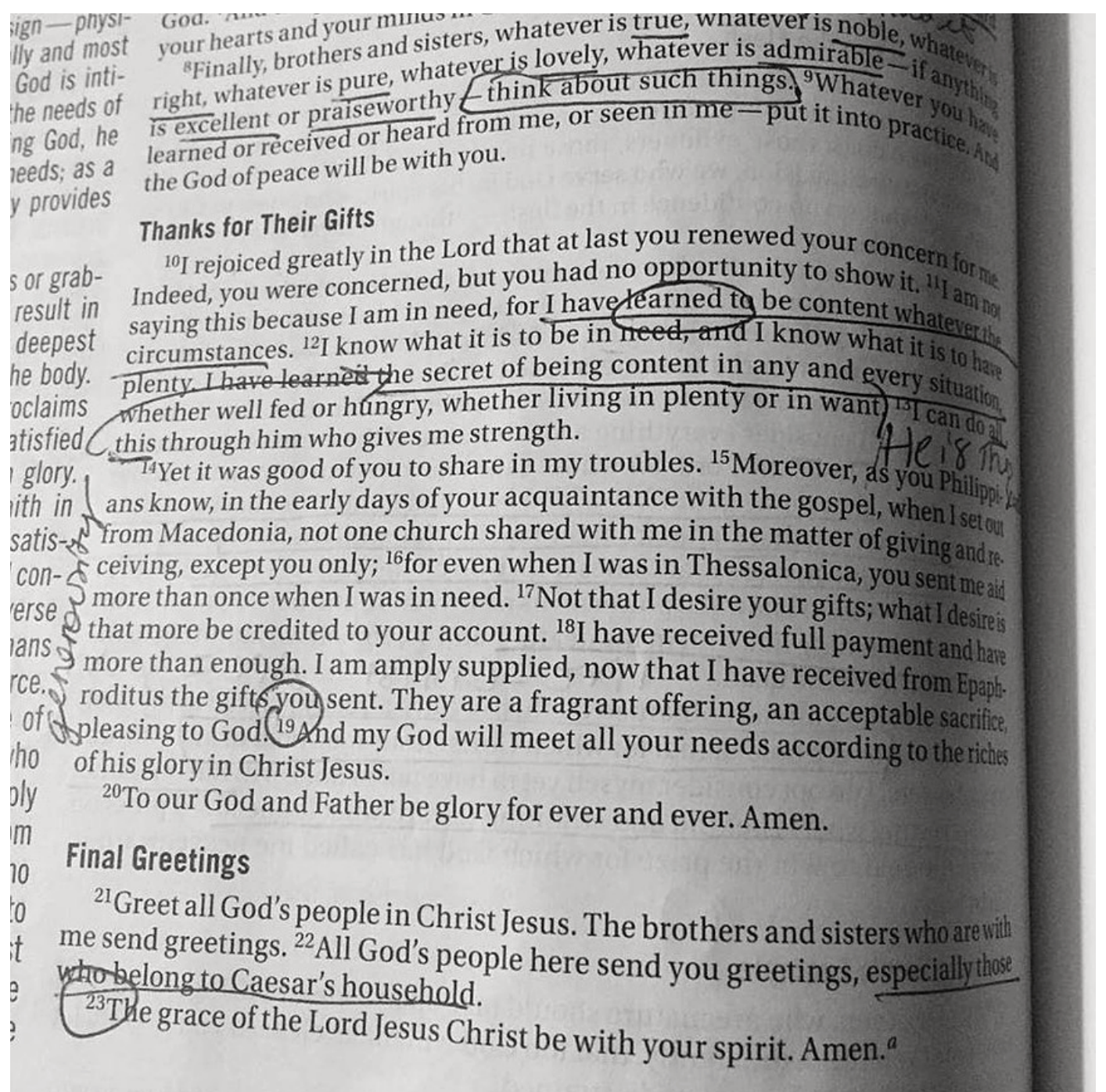
Let your mind rest, He has it.

*Elizabeth Foil*



# day 9

## #CONTENTMENT



## Read Philippians 4:10-23

In verse 12 we discover that being content has NOTHING to do with being in plenty or want. That we can be content in EVERY situation because He dwells in us. Through Him. This is the key.

He gives us His strength.

Whatever we are lacking materialistically or in any form/fashion He provides strength. Strength to live.

To do.

"I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty, I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through Him who gives me strength." (4:12-13)

He IS the secret.

I can live well fed or hungry.

I can live in plenty or in want.

I can live because He gives me strength.

Come what may.

"And my God will meet ALL YOUR NEEDS according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus." (4:19).

He doesn't promise to meet our needs the way we expect, think, or want. But He does promise to meet them exactly how we NEED.

And don't you think He knows that best?

This isn't just physical and financial. This is also emotional, mental and spiritual.

The Lord will provide.

Let us end with this:

Paul starts today's reading with "I rejoiced greatly in the Lord \_\_\_\_\_"

Go ahead and fill in the bank!

How have you rejoiced greatly in the Lord today?





*meet the author*

**Elizabeth Foil**

As the founder of LaceDevotion Ministries (LDM), Elizabeth is passionate about introducing young women to Jesus Christ.

"There is no better way to become who you are meant to be than to be with the One who created you to BE. He knows the things etched within your heart. Don't you think He can handle your questions and hurts? He wants something more than your time. He wants YOU!"