

Good News Church GA
Midweek Connect

1-6-26

Sermon Series:
“Joy in the Journey”
Paul’s letter to the Philippians

SCRIPTURE TEXT: Philippians 1:1-11

1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all God’s holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons:

2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving and Prayer

3 I thank my God every time I remember you. **4** In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy **5** because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, **6** being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

7 It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God’s grace with me.**8** God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, **10** so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, **11** filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

“BE JOYFUL”

by Warren Wiersbe

Discussion Questions

- 1. INTRODUCTIONS** – a) Name b) Where you grew up c) Where you live now d) Current Source of Joy
- 2. TAKE AWAYS** – Do you have any take aways from the sermon message and/or reading?
- 3. FULLNESS OF JOY** – Jesus said that He came to give us “fullness of joy.” What does “fullness of joy” mean to you?
- 4. JOY ROBBERS** – What circumstances in your everyday life tend to rob you of your Christian joy?
- 5. JOY FILLERS** – What practices / habits can positively impact your daily joy?
- 6. JOY DRAINERS** – Do you have people in your life who drain your joy? What are some ways that we can respond to those people?
- 7. JESUS JOY** - How can relationship with Jesus positively impact joy in our lives?
- 8. JOY STORY** – Can you recall a time in your life when you experienced joy in difficult times?
- 9. CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP** – What are the factors for true Christian fellowship?
- 10. PRAYER** – How can prayer impact joy?

Drue's Notes from "Be Joyful"

by Warren Wiesbe

Introduction

- Joy leaks.
- Happiness depends on what happens to us. Joy depends on Jesus.
- Warren Wiersbe pointed out that Paul had a "single-minded focus on Jesus, which was a major factor in his joy in spite of difficult circumstances.
- Of all people, Paul, had every reason to not have joy.
 - *"I've worked much harder, been jailed more often, beaten up more times than I can count, and at death's door time after time. I've been flogged five times with the Jews' thirty-nine lashes, beaten by Roman rods three times, pummeled with rocks once. I've been shipwrecked three times, and immersed in the open sea for a night and a day. In hard traveling year in and year out, I've had to ford rivers, fend off robbers, struggle with friends, struggle with foes. I've been at risk in the city, at risk in the country, endangered by desert sun and sea storm, and betrayed by those I thought were my brothers. I've known drudgery and hard labor, many a long and lonely night without sleep, many a missed meal, blasted by the cold, naked to the weather."* – 2 Corinthians 11:23-27 (MSG)

What was the secret and source of Paul's joy?

1. An awareness of the sovereignty of God
 - God is in control of every single thing that happens to us and is weaving all of it for our good and His glory
2. The very real hope of heaven
 - In comparison to heaven, every one of life's "problems" looked minuscule.

CH. 1 The Joy-Stealers

- Jesus came that we might share in His joy.
 - *"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."* – John 15:11
 - *"In your presence, there is fullness of joy. At your right hand, there are pleasures forevermore."* – Psalm 16:11
- Paul mentions joy at least 19 times in this letter to the Philippians.
- Paul had joy, in spite of his terrible circumstances, because of his mindset (i.e. what he decided to think about).

Joy Stealers include:

1. Circumstances
2. People
3. Things
4. Worry

The 4 attitudes that help counter these joy stealers and maintain joy are:

1. **Single mindedness (Ch. 1)** (i.e., the lens of Christ) – Paul didn't look at Christ through his circumstances, but his circumstances through Christ.
2. **Submissive mind (Ch. 2)** – Paul laid aside his own preferences and put others ahead of himself. This makes a huge difference!
3. **Spiritual mind (Ch. 3)** – Paul was more concerned about eternal things than earthly things.
 - *"Man is no fool to give up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."*
– Jim Elliot
4. **Secure mind (Ch. 4)**
 - *"Worry is actually wrong thinking (the mind) and wrong feeling (the heart) about circumstances, people, and things."*

What should we do?

1. **Be sure you're a Christian.**
 - "Saints" = set apart ones
2. **Admit your failures**
3. **Surrender your mind to Christ daily.**
4. **Look for opportunities to put your mind to work.**

CH. 2 How to Increase Your Joy (Philippians 1:1-11)

- **What is the "single mindedness" that Paul writes about?**
 - **Answer:** It's the attitude that says, "It makes no difference what happens to me, just as long as Christ is glorified and the gospel shared with others."
- **What is the key to true and meaningful Christian "fellowship?"**
 - **Answer:** Paul said, I have you in my: 1) mind (vs. 3-6) 2) heart (vs. 7-8) 3) prayers (vs. 9-11)

It is worth asking, *"Am I the kind of Christian who brings joy to my pastor's mind when he thinks of me?"*

Salvation includes a threefold work: 1) the work God does for us—salvation; 2) the work God does in us—sanctification; 3) the work God does through us—service.

- *"And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."* – Romans 5:5