

Sermon Notes
Good News Church
Joy in the Journey
“The Fulfillment of Joy”
Philippians 2:12-18
Drue Warner
2-15-26

OVERVIEW

Theme: “The Joy of Lord”

Outline by Warren Wiersbe:

CH. 1 The Single Mind

- 1/4 “The Increase of Joy” (Phil. 1:1-11)
- 1/11 “The Power of Joy” (Phil. 1:12-26)
- 1/18 “The Community of Joy” (Phil. 1:27-30)

CH. 2 The Submissive Mind

- 2/1 “Philippians 1 Overview” (Snow Zoom)
- 2/8 “The Humiliation of Joy” (Phil. 2:1-11)
- TODAY “The Fulfillment of Joy” (Phil. 2:12-18)

CH. 3 The Spiritual Mind

CH. 4 The Secure Mind

CONTEXT: Philippians 2:12-18 is a response to everything that Jesus has done in Philippians 2:6-11 - Christ made Himself nothing and became obedient to death on a cross. **Therefore**, God exalted Him...

TEXT: Philippians 2:12-18 RESPONSE

¹² **Therefore**, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—**continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,**¹³ **for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.**

¹⁴ **Do everything without grumbling or arguing,**¹⁵ **so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky**¹⁶ **as you hold firmly to the word of life.** And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain.¹⁷ But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you.¹⁸ So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

Key Verse (several good options): “It is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.” – Philippians 2:13

1. Work out your own salvation (with fear and trembling). vs. 12

- Keep peddling. Don’t stop. Put yourself in position for God to do His work in your life.
 - Show up (faith) / Open up (surrender) / Look up (prayer)

- **Grit & Grind (MICAH)** – “Grit and grind first, and then you can relax and chill. If you relax and chill first, the grit and grind gets topped off with stress and scramble.”
 - In other words, do the hard stuff first. When you do the hard stuff before the fun stuff, the fun stuff becomes more fun.” **PRIORITY**
- **A WORD FROM WIERSBE** - The verb “work out” carries the meaning of “work to full completion,” such as working out a problem in mathematics, or working a mine (getting out of the mine all the valuable ore possible), or working a field (getting the greatest harvest possible). The purpose God wants us to achieve is to maximize our fullest potential and gain the greatest yield possible.” – Warren Wiersbe **Maximized POTENTIAL**

with fear and trembling. vs. 12

- To work out your own salvation “with fear and trembling” means that, as you do so, be sure to maintain a healthy perspective of the awesomeness, holiness, and greatness of God.
 - **Don’t be lackadaisical about who God is.** He’s not “the man upstairs, the big guy in the sky, or the boss man.”
 - The Trinity = *Big Daddy, the Kid and Ol’ Spooky*

2. It is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purposes. vs. 13

- When you show up, God will show up, too.
 - “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.” – James 4:8a
- The reality is that if you show up for God, it’s because He already showed up for you. He gave you the “want to” to “want to.”
- Good news... God does it! “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.” – Philippians 1:6 **The pressure is off!**
- **A WORD FROM WIERSBE** - “It is not by imitation, but by incarnation. The Christian life is not a series of ups and downs. It is rather a process of ‘ins and outs’. God works in, and we work out. **The principle from Paul is that God must work in us before He can work through us.**” – Warren Wiersbe

3. 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,” then you’ll shine among them like stars in the sky, as you hold firmly to the word of life). vs. 14

- **Quit cher bellyachin’! Why do we grumble?**
 - Because we’re not getting our way. We want to be in charge.
 - The key to moving from grumbling to gratitude is “trust” and “submission,” and the result of submission (Wiersbe) is... JOY!

- **Grumbling (see Exodus 15-16)**
 1. **Exodus 15 Praising (salvation) Moses & Miriam song**
“Sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted. Both horse and driver he has hurled into the sea.” – Exodus 15:21
 2. **Exodus 16:1-3 Grumbling (entitlement)**
“In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the Lord’s hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.” – Exodus 16:2
 3. **Exodus 16:4 Grace**
Then the Lord said to Moses, “I will rain down bread from heaven for you.” – Exodus 16:4
 4. **Exodus 16:6-7 Glory**
So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you will know that it was the Lord who brought you out of Egypt, and **in the morning you will see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your grumbling against him.** – Exodus 16:6-7

SUMMARY: 1) God gives 2) We grumble 3) God graces 4) God receives glory

Why not grumble and argue?

so that you may become blameless and pure children of God without fault in a “warped and crooked generation,” then you’ll shine among them like the stars in the sky, (as you hold firmly to the word of life). vs. 15

▪ **Shining Stars (aka “Children of Light”)**

THIS IS US!

- **“*Crooked and warped generation*”** is a phrase from “The Song of Moses” in **Deuteronomy 32**. Moses is passing the leadership baton to Joshua, but before he does, he sings this song, then he blesses each tribe of Israel, and then he dies. In verse 6, he says that these people are a *“foolish and unwise people.”*

THIS IS GOD!

- **GOOD NEWS (vs. 9-10)** – *“For the Lord’s portion is his people, Jacob his allotted inheritance. In a desert land he found him, in a barren and howling waste. He shielded him and cared for him; he guarded him as the apple of his eye.”* – Deut. 32:9-10

Before Christ, we were the “crooked and warped generation.” After Christ, it went from being about US to being about THEM (who God wants to reach through us).

God loves “crooked and warped” people! Aren’t you glad?!?

“as you hold firmly to the word of life” (vs. 16) And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. ¹⁷ But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. ¹⁸ So you too should be glad and rejoice with me. (vs. 17-18)

- **PARAPHRASE vs. 16b – 18** *My efforts and investment in you are not for naught. But even if I die, I’m good. And if I’m good, you should be, too.*
- **“as you hold firmly to the word of life”** (vs. 16) is a reflection of vs. 12 *“Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.”*
- God uses 3 tools to work in our lives: 1) His Word 2) Prayer 3) Suffering (belief to conviction)
 - By God’s grace, He moves us from being “Crooked and Warped” to being **“Shining Stars”** in the sky **for all to see.**
 - *“Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” – Jesus (Matthew 5:16)*
 - God wants us to be in and amongst lost and hurting people, so we can provide love, care, hope, help, and healing and to bring them to Jesus.

MAKE IT STICK! 😊 > **Earth, Wind & Fire “Shining Star” clip**

We have a choice in how we will live our lives.

FOOLISH (Flesh)

Crooked & Warped

- Grumbling
- Selfish
- Takers
- Complainers
- Blame
- Deny
- Lies

WISE (Spirit)

Shining Stars

- Gratitude
- Servant
- Givers
- Rejoicers
- Own
- Admit
- Truth



What difference does faith make?

A LOT! It gives you the ability to live like THIS!

We’re all sinners and will always carry the descriptives in the left column, but if you see that your life lines up more consistently with the left-hand column than the right, then **you need God “to work in you to will and to act to fulfill His good purposes.”** In order to do that, you need **“to work out your own salvation with fear and trembling”** and you need to **“hold firmly to the word of life.”** (MAKE IT A PRIORITY) *“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.” – James 4:8*

Ultimately, God doesn’t care as much about what you do, as much as He cares about who you are... ***“a child of God without fault, shining like the stars in the sky.”***

And that’s Good News!