

Perfecting Joy: The Book of Philippians

What Sustains Joy

A. Rejoice in the Lord always... *Phil 4:4*

Even though Paul was in prison and suffered much, a major theme of the book of Philippians is 'joy.'


- Joy is used four times *1:4, 25; 2:2; 4:1*
- Rejoice occurs eight times
1:18 [twice]; 2:17-18; 3:1, 4:4 [twice], 4:10
- Glad occurs three times *2:17-18, 28*

B. A Joyful Greeting *Phil 1:1-4*

1. Youth and age are linked together :1
2. Throne of grace :2; *Heb 4:16*
3. Peace of God :2; *Phil 4:6-7*
4. Song of thanksgiving and joy :3-4

C. What Sustains Joy? :5-11

1. Fellowship in the gospel :5
 - a. First day forward at Philippi *Acts 16*
 - b. Fellowship in the gospel
1 Cor 10:16; Phil 3:10; 2 Cor 8:1-4
2. Growing in Christ :6
 - a. Perfect/complete: teleo= to bring to an end, to finish, to accomplish, to carry out fully.
 - b. Complete in Him
Rom 5:3-5; Rom 8:28-31; Phil 3:21
3. Living in grace :7
 - a. Heart felt memories
 - b. **Defending** the gospel: answering the critics
 - c. **Confirming** the gospel: establishing the message
 - d. **Grace** here means the undeserved strength from God to carry on the work of the Lord in the face of severe opposition.
4. Loving one another :8
 - a. The grace of God breaks down the barrier between Jew and Gentile.
 - b. Affection here is the deepest possible 'passion' for something. This passion is centered in Christ.
 - c. Who in your life do you have this kind of passion for?
5. Praying with maturity :9-11
 - a. **Prayer for love!** (:9a) '...that your love may abound.' Without love there is no basis for 'joy.'
Joh 3:16; Eph 3:16-19
 - b. **Prayer for light!** (:9b) '...in knowledge and all discernment.' Love is NOT blind—love calls for and seeks after knowledge—the truth!
 - c. **Prayer for life!** (:10-11) Praying for God's most excellent outcome from a character of transparency which is rooted NOT in our righteousness but the righteousness of God.



These things I speak in the world
that they may have
My joy fulfilled in themselves.

Jesus - John 17:13

Philippians 1:1-11

:1 Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:
:2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
:3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,
:4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all **with joy**,
:5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now,
:6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;
:7 just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace.
:8 For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ.
:9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,
:10 that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ,
:11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

A. Rejoice in the Lord always... *Phil 4:4*

Even though Paul was in prison and suffered much, a major theme of the book of Philippians is ‘**joy**.’

Compare 3:1 with 4:4

- Joy is used four times *1:4, 25; 2:2; 4:1*
- Rejoice occurs eight times
1:18 [twice]; 2:17-18; 3:1, 4:4 [twice], 4:10
- Glad occurs three times *2:17-18, 28*

B. A Joyful Greeting *Phil 1:1-4*

1. Youth and age are linked together :1
Paul is an old guy—Timothy younger
2. Throne of grace :2; *Heb 4:16*
“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”
3. Peace of God :2; *Phil 4:6-7*
This is another theme of Philippians—the “peace of God” as distinguished from ‘peace with God’ Rom 5:1
Rom 5:1 “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”
Phil 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God (7) and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus
4. Song of thanksgiving and joy :3-4
How great to give thanks and be filled with joy whenever you think of someone—or a group of people.

Philippians 1:1-11

:1 Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

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

:3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,

:4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all ***with joy***,

C. What Sustains Joy? :5-11

1. Fellowship in the gospel :5

a. First day forward at Philippi Acts 16

Paul's first day was an amazing day.....

b. Fellowship in the gospel

1 Cor 10:16; Phil 3:10; 2 Cor 8:1-4

1 Cor 10:16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

Phil 3:10 ...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.

2 Cor 8:1-4 Key Passage turn to it and read....

2. Growing in Christ :6

a. Perfect/complete: teleo= to bring to an end, to finish, to accomplish, to carry out fully.

b. Complete in Him

Rom 5:3-5; Rom 8:28-31; Phil 3:21

We are confident of God's work in us...

:6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

Rom 5:3 And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;

Rom 5:4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope.

Rom 5:5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.

Rom 8:29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Rom 8:30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Rom 8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us?

Phi 3:21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

3. Living in grace :7

a. Heart felt memories

b. **Defending** the gospel: answering the critics

c. **Confirming** the gospel: establishing the message

d. **Grace** here means the undeserved strength from God to carry on the work of the Lord in the face of severe opposition.

:5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now,

First Day: Finding no synagogue to which he could go on the Sabbath and speak with the Jews, he went down to the river where a group of women were said to meet on the Sabbath. After he told them the story of Jesus, one of the women, Lydia, opened her heart to the Lord. On "*the first day*" he cast an evil spirit out of a slave girl, and her owners were incensed to the point of having Paul flogged and imprisoned. But on "*the first day*" God worked miraculously again and the jailer was converted, then his family, and the Christian community grew in Philippi.

:7 just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace.

4. Loving one another :8
a. The grace of God breaks down the barrier between Jew and Gentile.

Paul is a Jew writing mostly to Gentiles..

- b. Affection here is the deepest possible ‘passion’ for something. This passion is centered in Christ.

Paul is saying that he loves them with the same kind of love that Christ had for them—willing to live and die for them.

- c. Who in your life do you have this kind of passion for?

5. Praying with maturity :9-11
a. **Prayer for love!** (:9a) ‘...that your love may abound.’ Without love there is no basis for ‘joy.’
Joh 3:16; Eph 3:16-19

Joh 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Eph 3:16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,

Eph 3:17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

Eph 3:18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height—

Eph 3:19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

- b. **Prayer for light!** (:9b) ‘...in knowledge and all discernment.’ Love is NOT blind—love calls for and seeks after knowledge—the truth!

- c. **Prayer for life!** (:10-11) Praying for God’s most excellent outcome from a character of transparency which is rooted NOT in our righteousness but the righteousness of God.