

The Secret to Joy

An Overview of the Book of Philippians

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I thank my God upon every remembrance of you... 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. Ph. 1:3-6

Summary

The words "joy" or "rejoice" is found 15 times in Philippians.

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Joy comes from knowing Jesus.

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Joy and happiness are different.

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Joy is a decision.

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Joy is a fruit of the Spirit, so it grows as you water it.

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Joy grows as God's priorities become yours.

Supporting Scriptures:

Ph. 4:4, Ph. 4:6,
Jn. 16:24, Jms. 1:2

What is Philippians About?

Paul wrote a "thank you letter" to a partner church that he had founded ten years earlier in Northern Greece. He writes this "Book of Joy" as a prisoner on house arrest in Rome, chained to a Roman soldier and living in the worst of conditions. We quickly learn that Paul has a source of joy few have discovered yet available to all today.

Chapter One - Joy is Living for Jesus

Read Ph. 1:6 and list what is the good work in you?

Paul's joy came from knowing Jesus and advancing the gospel.

Chapter Two - Joy in Serving

Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interest of others. Ph. 2:4

Look at Jesus' example in Ph. 2:5-11.

Serving others requires _____.

Jesus first **O**thers second **Y**ourself last

Chapter Three - Joy in Knowing Jesus Christ

Paul lists seven reasons he could brag about how important he was in Ph. 3:4-6. What compares to knowing Jesus? Nothing!

"...what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ." Ph. 3:7

"...that I may know Him ..." Ph. 3:10

"...one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching for..." Ph. 3:13

The Prize is worth the price.

Chapter Four - Joy is Trusting Jesus

Trust Him with your worries. Ph. 4:6

"I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him who infuses inner strength in me. I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency." Ph. 4:13 AMPC

Answers:
God is changing your perspective.
God is shifting your priorities.
Humility