

## Joy and Affection

Philippians 1:1-11

### Introduction:

We are beginning a new series on Paul's letter to the Philippians, which has a central theme of joy.

This week we're reading the first eleven verses of the first chapter. To start the series, let's consider how joy comes about and what it leads to.

### Discuss:

1. As you reflect on the sermon, what stood out to you? What challenged you? Were there any questions you want answered?

### Part 1: How joy comes about—God.

2. In this passage, we see Paul emphasizing how joy is rooted in Jesus and the gospel. Consider who among your friends, family, neighbors, and colleagues exemplifies this type of joy. Describe how you see their gospel-rooted joy on display.

3. Do you feel God's joy? His joy over you, in you, through you, and with you? Why or why not?

4. Gospel-rooted joy requires us to be heavenly-minded, even amidst persecution or conflict. How is this challenging? What helps?

5. Gospel-rooted joy requires us to be grateful, even amidst disappointment or uncertainty. How is this challenging? What helps?

6. What are some circumstances that threaten to steal your joy, even before it takes root? What strengthens your joy and helps it take root?

### Part 2: How joy comes about—*squad*.

7. This letter comes from Paul working together with Timothy and gives evidence of how joy also comes through partnership in the gospel. Who is your *squad*? With whom do you share *koinonia*—commitment in fellowship and partnership to advancing the gospel?

8. Pastor Paul outlines several things that can hold back this *squad* joy. Which are you most prone to? What are some steps you can take to counter this tendency?

- Sensationalism—Cool! How exciting! Then the shine rubs off and it's meh.
- Mysticism—Emphasis on spirituality and experiential with me + Jesus at the center; neglecting the importance of we + Jesus.
- Idealism—Having a wish or dream of what church life ought to be and it never lives up to the expectations.
- Individualism—Not having community because it's a headache or hassle.

### Part 3: What it leads to.

9. Gospel-rooted joy is not circumstantial—it transcends situations and seasons. Describe the fruit of this type of joy.

### Apply

The acronym JOY can be used to help us pray joyfully for J = Jesus, O = others, Y = you. In doing so, Pastor Paul encourages us to seek:

- Love that abounds (with knowledge and discernment)
- Wisdom (approve what is excellent)
- Holiness (filled with the fruit of righteousness)

This week as you reflect on this message, consider what God is calling you to do and how you might respond.