

The JOY of Serving Jesus

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How did the Philippian church begin?

3 Key Events

- 1st Convert – businesswoman, Lydia (Acts 16:11-15)
- Paul healed a demon-possessed slave girl (Acts 16:16-24)
- Conversion of Philippian jailor (Acts 16:25-34)

**10 years later Paul writes this letter to them...
filled with love & warmth & encouragement.**

Introduction

Philippians 1:1-2 ^{NIV}

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.

I have you in MIND

Philippians 1:3-6 ^{NIV}

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.

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Paul rarely thanked God just for *things...*
he more frequently thanked God for *people...*

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Not just continue it... but *carry it on to completion*

- **Completion:** a flourishing finish

**Set-backs, problems, stupid choices,
and failures happen...**

**The Christian life isn't wind sprints...
it's a cross-country marathon.**

How about you?
What's the basis of
***your* confidence?**

I have you in mind & HEART

Philippians 1:7-8 ^{NIV}

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*.

It's *not* about my grip on God...
but rather *His* grip on me and His grip on *you*.

I have you in mind, heart & PRAYERS

Philippians 1:9-11 MSG

So this is my prayer: that your love will flourish and that you will not only love much but well. Learn to love appropriately. You need to use your head and test your feelings so that your love is sincere and intelligent, not sentimental gush. Live a lover's life, circumspect and exemplary, a life Jesus will be proud of: bountiful in fruits from the soul, making Jesus Christ attractive to all, getting everyone involved in the glory and praise of God.

I have you in mind, heart & PRAYERS

Philippians 1:9-11 ^{NIV}

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.

I have you in mind, heart & PRAYERS

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We'll never learn how to discern good *or* better *or* best if we don't know how to be still & wait & listen...

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JOY

Jesus ——— **Others** ——— **Self**

Authentic **JOY** is NEVER
defined by our *circumstances* or *situations*
but by the degree to which we are, moment by
moment, *choosing* to let God help us grow in
living, looking, listening, loving & sounding
a wee bit more like Him every single day.

*So, **now what?***

*So, **now what?***

*Information rarely
leads to **application.***

So, now what?

“My sheep *hear* my voice” (John 10:27)

We can't *hear* if we don't listen...
hearing once-a-week is good...
choosing to hear every day
is SO much better!

*So, **now what?***

**So... this week,
what's ONE WAY I might
apply what Paul's shared?**