Philippians: Pursuing Authentic Joy

## The JOY of Serving Jesus Gary J. Oliver, TH.M., PH.D.

Chapter One

## How did the Philippian church begin?

Week One

# **3 Key Events**

Partnership in the Gospel

Week One

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.

Week One

## Introduction

Partnership in the Gospel

Philippians 1:1-2 NIV Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, overseers and deacons:

Week One

- To all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the
- <sup>2</sup> Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Partnership in the Gospel

Philippians 1:3-6 NIV I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup> In all my prayers for all of you, *I always pray with JOY*<sup>5</sup> because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup> 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.

Week One



Partnership in the Gospel

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

Week One

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Week One

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Not just continue it... but carry it on to completion **Completion:** a flourishing finish

Week One

## Set-backs, problems, stupid choices, and failures happen... The Christian life isn't wind sprints... it's a cross-country marathon.

Week One

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

Week One

## I have you in mind & HEART

Partnership in the Gospel

# Philippians 1:7-8 NIV

Week One

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.<sup>8</sup> 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.

Partnership in the Gospel

Week One

Partnership in the Gospel

## 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.

Week One

Partnership in the Gospel

## Philippians 1:9-11 NIV

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, <sup>10</sup> so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup> filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God.

Week One

Partnership in the Gospel

# Philippians 1:9-11 NIV to the glory and praise of God.

Week One

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Partnership in the Gospel

# Philippians 1:9-11 NIV

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

Week One

And this is my prayer: that your *love* may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, <sup>10</sup> so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ...

Partnership in the Gospel

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Week One

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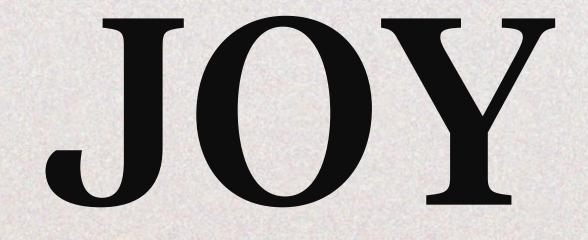
Partnership in the Gospel

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Week One

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## Jesus

## Others

Week One

## 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.

Week One



Week One



## Information rarely leads to application.

Week One

## So, now what?

Partnership in the Gospel

Week One

"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?

Partnership in the Gospel

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

Week One