

CHOOSE Joy

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Philippians 1:1 – 11 (ESV)

August 25, 2024

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MESSAGE NOTES

"True joy is not determined by what happens to me, but by what Christ is doing in me and through me."

– Steven Furtick

"Joy is the serious business of heaven." – C.S. Lewis

The Author of Philippians: The Apostle Paul

Date Written: Approximately 60 A.D.

Philippians' Theme: Choose Joy

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

– Philippians 1:1 – 2 (ESV)

- **Choose joy by cultivating thankfulness before the Lord**

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ... – Philippians 1:3 – 4 (ESV)

... because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. – Philippians 1:5 (ESV)

- **Choose joy by cultivating confidence in the Lord**

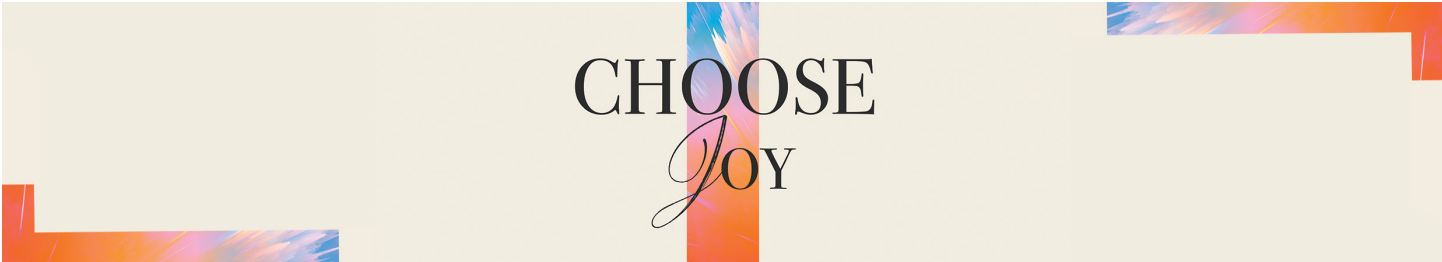
And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. – Philippians 1:6 (ESV)

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. – Romans 11:29 (NAS)

It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. – Philippians 1:7 (ESV)

I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ...

– Philippians 1:12 (ESV)



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- **Choose joy by cultivating love through the Lord**

And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ...
– *Philippians 1:9 (ESV)*

... so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.
– *Philippians 1:10-11 (ESV)*

Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. – *Philippians 3:1 (NIV)*

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Discussion Starter: Share a moment in life that brought you great joy recently and why.
- What was God speaking to you about from our passage this week in Philippians 1:1 – 11?
- Pastor Steven Furtick says, "*True joy is not determined by what happens to me, but by what Christ is doing in me and through me.*" C. S. Lewis writes, "*Joy is the serious business of heaven.*" What resonates with you most about joy in these statements?
- Why is joy something we cultivate in our life with God?
- Read Philippians 1:3 – 5. How does giving thanks to God cultivate joy within us? Why did Paul's "*partnership in the gospel*" with the Philippians bring him such joy? How have you seen God do this in your own life?
- Read Philippians 1:6 and practice memorizing it with someone beside you. What is the promise in this verse, and why is it so crucial in helping us cultivate joy?
- How does Romans 11:29 add to our confidence in God finishing what He started in us through Christ?
- Read Philippians 1:12. Share an example of God using something difficult or challenging to proclaim the good news.
- Read Philippians 1:9. How does growing in God's love cultivate joy?
- Take some time to pray and give God thanks for the people He has placed in your life.