

# Joy In Jail

*Message Handout*

## Three Reasons Paul chooses Joy from Philippians 1

### 1. Take joy in the FELLOWSHIP of the gospel.

1. **Philippians 1:3-9 (NLT)** **3** Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. **4** Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, **5** for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. **6** And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns. **7** So it is right that I should feel as I do about all of you, for you have a special place in my heart. You share with me the special favor of God, both in my imprisonment and in defending and confirming the truth of the Good News. **8** God knows how much I love you and long for you with the tender compassion of Christ Jesus. **9** I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding.
2. Paul had a way of reflecting on the family of God, the fellowship of believers.
  1. **Philippians 4:1 (NLT)** Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stay true to the Lord. I love you and long to see you, dear friends, for you are my joy and the crown I receive for my work.
  2. Those he ministered WITH
  3. Those he ministered TO
  4. Those he built into spiritual CHILDREN.
3. You are in my mind! - "Every time I think of you..."
4. You are in my heart! - "...for you have a special place in my heart."
5. You are in my prayers! - "I pray that your love will overflow more and more..."

### 2. Take joy in the FURTHERANCE of the gospel.

1. **Philippians 1:12-18 (NLT)** **12** And I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters, that everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News. **13** For everyone here, including the whole palace guard, knows that I am in chains because of Christ. **14** And because of my imprisonment, most of the believers here have gained confidence and boldly speak God's message without fear. **15** It's true that some are preaching out of jealousy and rivalry. But others preach about Christ with pure motives. **16** They preach because they love me, for they know I have been appointed to defend the Good News. **17** Those others do not have pure motives as they preach about Christ.

They preach with selfish ambition, not sincerely, intending to make my chains more painful to me. **18**

But that doesn't matter. Whether their motives are false or genuine, the message about Christ is being preached either way, so I rejoice. And I will continue to rejoice.

**2. Paul was the eternal optimist.**

1. He recognized God's sovereignty, and He trusted it.
2. He was looking for every possible way to advance the gospel.

**3. Paul's perspective**

1. Rejoice when the gospel goes forth in SMALL ways
2. Rejoice when the gospel goes forth in unforeseen ways
3. Rejoice when the gospel goes forth in personal ways.

**3. Take joy in the FAITH of the gospel.**

**1. Philippians 1:20-26 (NLT) 20** For I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed, but that I will continue to be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past. And I trust that my life will bring honor to Christ, whether I live or die. **21** For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better. **22** But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ. So I really don't know which is better. **23** I'm torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. **24** But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live. **25** Knowing this, I am convinced that I will remain alive so I can continue to help all of you grow and experience the joy of your faith.

**2. Paul's faith was so strong that he realized he was in a WIN-WIN scenario.**

1. I BELIEVE I will continue to be strong.
2. I BELIEVE that my life will bring honor to Christ.
3. I BELIEVE that in living or in dying, I win.
4. I BELIEVE I will stay alive and continue helping you.

**3. What is the joy of our faith?**

1. Even in death, we win!
2. Even in hardship, He gets the glory!