



SUNDAY MAY 17, 2020

# PHILIPPIANS

#JOY in my relationships

*This letter is from Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus.*

*I am writing to all of God's holy people in Philippi who belong to Christ Jesus, including the church leaders and deacons. <sup>2</sup> May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. <sup>3</sup> Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. <sup>4</sup> Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, <sup>5</sup> for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> God knows how much I love you and long for you with the tender compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup> I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. <sup>10</sup> For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return. <sup>11</sup> May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God. ~ **Philippians 1:1-11***

The letter to the Philippians is...

- A personal book that reveals a lot about the Apostle Paul.
- A practical book that deals with relevant issues.
- A positive book that focuses on joy.

**Memory Verse:**

*“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I will say, rejoice!”*

**Philippians 4:4**

King David wrote... *This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.* ~ **Psalm 118:24**

**FOUR PRINCIPALS TO FINDING JOY IN RELATIONSHIP:**

**1. YOU’VE GOT TO LEARN TO PUT PEOPLE IN YOUR THOUGHTS.**

*“I thank my God every time I remember you.”* **Philippians 1:3**

Paul had...

- Caring thoughts
- Thankful thoughts

*The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. <sup>23</sup> And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely.*

*<sup>24</sup> Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.* ~ **Acts 16:22-24**

**2. PAUL LOOKED FOR THE POSITIVE IN PEOPLE**

**3. BE PATIENT WITH THE GROWTH IN PEOPLE**

*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**

## God does a two-fold work in our lives...

### 1. **Salvation** – the work God does for us

*“8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.”*  
**Ephesians 2:8-9**

### 2. **Sanctification** – the work God does in us

*For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him. ~ **Philippians 2:13***

*<sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ~ **Philippians 1:7-8***

## 4. PUT PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

And it is my prayer that **your love may abound more and more**, with knowledge and all discernment. ~ **Philippines 1:9a**

### A. **PRAY FOR PEOPLE’S GROWTH.**

*So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup> may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ~ **Ephesians 3: 17-19***

### B. **PRAY FOR PEOPLE TO MAKE GOOD CHOICES.**

*And that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding.  
~ **Philippians 1:9b***

### C. **PRAY FOR PEOPLE’S CHARACTER.**

*For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ’s return. ~ **Philippians 1:10***

### D. **PRAY FOR PEOPLE TO BE FRUITFUL.**

*May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God. ~ **Philippians 1:11***

## **Next Steps**

- Become a follower of Jesus today
- Memorize Philippians 4:4
- Put somebody in your thoughts
- Thank God for somebody
- Pray for somebody
- Join us on Wednesdays at 12pm for prayer on Facebook Live
- Join an online connect group ([Inlc.org/connect](http://Inlc.org/connect))