



# GRACE CHURCH

## Message Notes

Paul and Silas chose praise over pity and began to worship. Your praise doesn't just deliver you, it delivers others too.

Philippians 1:3-11 NIV — I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, 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. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Paul teaches us to focus on others in the midst of our troubles.

Paul's gratitude led to joy!

Philippians 1:12 NIV — Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel.

Paul didn't focus on what happened to him. Instead, he focused on what God was doing through what had happened to him.

Ask yourself — How is God using this for His glory and for my good?

You can view life through the lens of what happened to you or you can view life through the lens how God transformed and used those things that happened to you.

Philippians 1:13-14 NIV — As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly.

God often gives us the destination, but does not give us the route.

Your purpose is greater than your problem!

## Discussion Questions

1. What does your quiet time with God look like?
2. Pastor Scott reminded us that Paul's gratitude led to joy. What are three things you could express gratitude to God for?
3. Choosing joy is not based off of your current situation, it's based on your perspective of God in the midst of your situation. Can you recall a time where you chose joy in the midst of a difficult situation? What was that like?
4. Paul focused more on what God was doing through him instead of what was happening to him. How is the gospel advancing through your difficult circumstances?
5. Suffering often gives us a platform to testify to others. Have you ever encountered someone that you were able to testify to after you went through a difficult season?