

PHIL 1:1-5 (NIV), "PAUL AND TIMOTHY, SERVANTS OF CHRIST JESUS, TO ALL GOD'S HOLY PEOPLE IN CHRIST JESUS AT PHILIPPI, TOGETHER WITH THE OVERSEERS AND DEACONS: 2 GRACE AND PEACE TO YOU FROM GOD OUR FATHER AND THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. 3 I THANK MY GOD EVERY TIME I REMEMBER YOU. 4 IN ALL MY PRAYERS FOR ALL OF YOU, I ALWAYS PRAY WITH JOY 5 BECAUSE OF YOUR PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL FROM THE FIRST DAY UNTIL NOW"

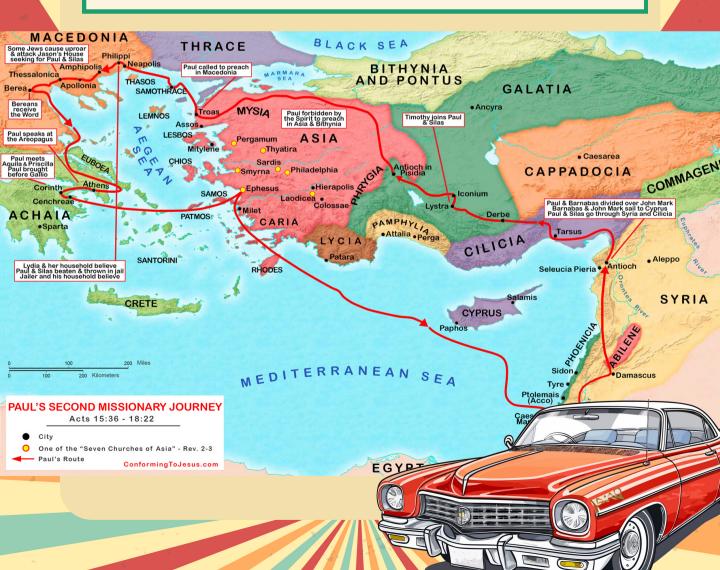
THE JOY OF FOLLOWING JESUS

IN CHRIST WE CAN EXPERIENCE SUSTAINABLE JOY. TEMPORARY CIRCUMSTANCES DO NOT HAVE TO DIMINISH OUR JOY. YOU CAN CHOOSE JOY ANYWHERE, ANYTIME, ANYWAY.

ACTS 16:6-10 (NIV), PAUL AND HIS COMPANIONS TRAVELED THROUGHOUT THE REGION OF PHRYGIA AND GALATIA, HAVING BEEN KEPT BY THE HOLY SPIRIT FROM PREACHING THE WORD IN THE PROVINCE OF ASIA. 7 WHEN THEY CAME TO THE BORDER OF MYSIA, THEY TRIED TO ENTER BITHYNIA, BUT THE SPIRIT OF JESUS WOULD NOT ALLOW THEM TO. 8 SO THEY PASSED BY MYSIA AND WENT DOWN TO TROAS. 9 DURING THE NIGHT PAUL HAD A VISION OF A MAN OF MACEDONIA STANDING AND BEGGING HIM, "COME OVER TO MACEDONIA AND HELP US." 10 AFTER PAUL HAD SEEN THE VISION, WE GOT READY AT ONCE TO LEAVE FOR MACEDONIA, CONCLUDING THAT GOD HAD CALLED US TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THEM.



ACTS 6:12-15 (NIV) rom there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days. 13 On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. 14 One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. 15 When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.



Acts 16:6-7 NIV), " Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. 7 When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to."

THANK GOD FOR CLOSED DOORS AND NOT JUST OPEN DOORS!

REV. 3:8, "WHAT HE OPENS NO ONE CAN SHUT, AND WHAT HE SHUTS NO ONE CAN OPEN."

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THE DETOUR IS OFTEN THE DESTINATION.



Phil 1:12 (NIV), "Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel."

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Luke 10:17-20, Later the seventy came back full of joy. "Lord," they said, "even evil spirits obey us when we use your name!" "Yes," Jesus replied, "I saw Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning! It is true that I have given you the power to tread on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the enemy's power—there is nothing at all that can do you any harm. Yet it is not your power over evil spirits which should give such joy, but the fact that your names are written in Heaven."

NEVER LET THE RESULTS OF THE DAY DETERMINE YOUR LEVEL OF JOY.