PHILIPPIANS

JOY IN CHRIST

Joy and Graciousness
Philippians 4:4-5

1. Rejoicing is a common theme in Paul's letter to the Philippians, but it is also rich in the Psalms as well. Spend time in some of the examples from Psalms below and see the repetition throughout Philippians. As you study both, what do you see that is similar between the two? Why do you think joy is important to the psalmists? Why was it important to Paul?
Psalms 9:1-2, 16:11, 32:11, 40:16, 68:3, 70:4, 95:1, 105:3-4, 118:24

2. Union with Christ is a critical doctrine of our faith and central to understanding our complete salvation. What comes to mind when you think about being in Christ? And Christ being in you? Below are passages that remind us how Union with Christ is woven throughout our redemptive journey.

   - **Chosen in Christ:**
   Ephesians 1:4; 2 Timothy 1:9

   - **Justification – Being saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone:**
   John 1:29; Romans 6; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15, 21; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:13-14

   - **Sanctification – Becoming more like Christ through the work of His Spirit in us:**
   John 15:1-17, 17:21-23; Romans 8:10-11; 1 Corinthians 6:15-19; Ephesians 1:3-6; 2:1-7, 5:25-31; Galatians 2:20; 1 John 4:13; 1 Peter 2:4-5

   - **Glorification – Eternity in God's presence:**
   Romans 6:5, 8:17-18, 29-30; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 John 3:2-3

3. Rejoicing and being gentle in spirit are both products of intimacy with God that produce the fruits of the Spirit. When we remain or abide in Christ, this fruit multiplies in our lives, sometimes through the challenge of being pruned by the Gardener himself. It cannot simply be manufactured.

   - As you reflect on Jesus' call to remain in Him in John 15, in what ways can you deepen your fellowship with Him? Does His Word abide in you? Does His love abide in you?

   - Look again at the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5. Do you simply treat it as a checkbox to achieve, or as an outflow of the redemptive work God is doing? Is there specific fruit you can be praying for God to grow in your life?