

# Joy Through Gratitude

"Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing."

Paul to Barnabas Acts 15:36

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be <u>free</u>.

But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh;
rather, <u>serve</u> <u>one another</u> humbly in love.

Galatians 5:13

### **GREETING WITH MEANING**

Philippians 1:1-2

<sup>1</sup> Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons:

<sup>2</sup> Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<u>Rejoice</u> always, <u>pray</u> continually, give <u>thanks</u> in all circumstances; for this is <u>God's will for you</u> in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

### THANKFUL FOR YOU

Philippians 1:3-6

<sup>3</sup> I <u>thank my God</u> every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup> In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with <u>joy</u> <sup>5</sup> because of your <u>partnership in the gospel</u> from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup> 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.

"There's a BIG difference between joy and happiness...
Joy is internal and constant. It's independent of circumstance.
Happiness is external and temporary. Dependent on circumstance.
Joy is in the heart. Happiness is on the face."

Mitchell Landon

### WITH ME IN THE WORK

Philippians 1:7-8

<sup>7</sup> It is right for me to <u>feel this way</u> about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming **the gospel**, all of you share in God's **grace** with me. <sup>8</sup> God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

## PRAYING FOR LOVE

Philippians 1:9-11

<sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer: that **your love** may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, <sup>10</sup> so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup> filled with the fruit of <u>righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ</u>—to the glory and praise of God.

"By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit."

Jesus Matthew 7:16-17

"Paul assumes that he and they are on common ground with regard to their understanding of the gospel. His concern is with some practical implications of that common understanding."

Gordon Fee, IVP NT Commentary-Philippians