

Fuel Your Joy

Perspective. Proclamation. Praise. That is life after healing. These three things should define our life. And inside the book of Philippians, where we will spend the majority of our time three out of the next four Sundays, you'll see how the spiritual **perspective** directed Paul's life. You'll see him **proclaiming** his trust and dependence on God. And finally, you'll see how the Spirit's work in his life led him to joyful **praise**. In Philippians 1.3-5 you can feel Paul's unwavering joy. It is the result of having been healed. In this lesson we will examine three things that fueled Paul's joy after his salvation experience.

I. Positive Memories Fuel Joy

- A. Philippians 1.3: *I give thanks to my God for every **remembrance** of you.*
- B. A key component of joy rests upon our decision to recall the goodness of people.
 - 1. Remembering the best in someone.
 - 2. Looking past glitches and failures and capture sweet memories.
 - 3. Focusing on their compassion, gentleness, sacrifice, and care.
- C. This is the key to every relationship: marriage; work; the church; everything.

II. Prayer Fuels Joy

- A. Philippians 1.4: *always **praying with joy** for all of you in my every prayer,...*
 - 1. *Prayer* has to do with "petition," involves asking God for something for someone else.
 - 2. Prayer becomes an expression of our joy. The joy of the Spirit causes us to be outwardly focused ... praying that God would pour out His blessings on others.
- B. Paul continually manifested this spirit ... even when his needs were probably greater than those he was praying for.
- C. Joy doesn't concern itself with itself ...
 - 1. Philippians 2.3-4: *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility **consider others** as more important than yourselves. Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others.*
 - 2. This does not mean we should never pray for our personal needs and spiritual assistance. Love finds its expression in the delight of the wellbeing of others.

III. Partnership Fuels Joy

- A. Philippians 1.5: *because of your **partnership** in the gospel from the first day until now.*
 - 1. *Partnership* means "communion, fellowship, participation."
 - 2. *In the **gospel** ...* Paul and the Philippians shared a common salvation.
 - 3. *From the **first** day until now ...* 10 years of partnership since Acts 16 ... They had/We have:
- B. A partnership in grace: We are part of something that transcends this world.
- C. A partnership in **life**: We share life with Jesus. We share life with one another.
- D. A partnership of **faith**: We all believe in God, His truth, and reality of prayer.
- E. A partnership of **praise**, thanksgiving, and love.
- F. A partnership of **service** ... we bear the loads of others ... we are all being equipped by our leaders for the work of service.

IV. As We Close

- A. Perspective. Proclamation. Praise.
- B. What can you do to fuel the joy in your life?
 - 1. Deal with the sin in your life and confess it to the Lord.
 - 2. Yield to the Spirit and allow Him to produce joy.