



The Joy of Friends  
Philippians 1:1-6; Acts 16:6-34  
April 28, 2019

Quick Facts About Philippians:

- The theme of Philippians is joy.
- The word “rejoice” is found nine times; the word “joy” five times; and the expression “to rejoice with” two times.
- Who wrote it? Paul, with Timothy (Philippians 1:1)
- Where was it written? Rome, while Paul was under house arrest (Acts 28:16, 30-31).
- Philippians was established during his second missionary journey.
- Philippi became the first European city to receive the gospel of Jesus Christ from Paul.
- When was it written? 62 A.D. during Paul’s house arrest in Rome while he awaited a hearing before Caesar (Acts 28:16-31).
- Why was it written? To encourage believers to find joy in serving Jesus.
- Philippians contains four chapters and 104 verses.
- The letter begins and ends with references to Jesus.

Dr. John Townsend:

“In physics, the second law of thermodynamics is known as the law of entropy. It states that things that are isolated move toward deterioration. Entropy operates in the spiritual world too. Whatever is cut off tends toward deterioration. That’s why the ultimate punishment, hell, is not defined by loss of consciousness or annihilation, but by its utter and complete separation from the love of God. That is why Jesus’ sacrifice for us involved His own separation from the Father when He became sin on our behalf. He suffered in that “He was cut off out of the land of the living” (Isa. 53:8). In other words, there is no life without relationship.”

J.I. Packer:

“We should not think of our fellowship with other Christians as a spiritual luxury, an optional addition to the exercises of private devotion. We should recognize rather that such fellowship is a spiritual necessity; for God has made us in such a way that our fellowship with Himself is fed by our fellowship with fellow-Christians and requires to be fed constantly for its own deepening and enrichment.”

I. The Church had a Great Formation

*Philippians 1:3 (NKJV) I thank my God upon every remembrance of you.*

A. Every Spirit-filled church faces opposition

*Acts 16:6-7 (NKJV) Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. <sup>7</sup>After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them.*

Takeaway:

If we are ever going to walk with the Lord as true disciples, we are going to have to learn to listen to the Holy Spirit’s “yes” as well as His “no”.

B. Every Spirit-filled church finds opportunity

*Acts 16:8-9 (NKJV) So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. 9And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us.*

Three reasons why Paul felt the need to go to Philippi:

1. Philippi was a sovereign city
2. Philippi was a sensitive city
3. Philippi was a strategic city

C. Every Spirit-filled church has faithful operations

*Acts 16:13 (NKJV) And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there.*

Three remarkable people emerge from this story:

1. Lydia, a seller of purple fabric (Acts 16:14-15)
2. A demon possessed slave girl (Acts 16:16-18)
3. The Philippian jailer (Acts 16:22-25)

II. The Church had a Great Fellowship

A. The fellowship of soulwinning

*Philippians 1:5 (NKJV) For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now.*

B. The fellowship of the Spirit

*Philippians 2:1 (NKJV) Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy.*

III. The Church has a Great Future

*Philippians 1:6 (NKJV) Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.*

A. Jesus started this work with us

B. Jesus does this work in us

*Philippians 1:6b Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you...*

C. Jesus will complete this work for us

*Philippians 1:6 (NKJV) Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.*