

WAYS TO CONNECT

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WEEKLY CONNECTIONS

AWANA Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00 pm, (September to May) *Children*

Contact: Sandra Myers (sandrageistmeyers@gmail.com)

KEYS Tuesdays, 7:00 -9:00 pm *Young Adults*

Contact: Josie Chapman (josie@encounternatomas.com)

PRAYER MEETING Wednesdays, 6:00 - 7:00 pm *Everyone*

Contact: Liz Januzak (bentley.lizzyj@gmail.com)

FLIPT 180 Wednesdays, 6:30 - 9:00 pm *JH & SH Students*

Contact: Brian & Kelsey Jang (singinkels@gmail.com)

THE BEREAN CLASS Thursdays, 10:00 - 11:00 am. *Everyone*

Contact: John Stone (john@encounternatomas.com)

BRIDGE TO HOPE Saturdays, 8:30 - 10:30 am. *Homeless*

Contact: Eric Christiansen (ericmortgage1@gmail.com)

WOMEN'S MINISTRY "Jewel Groups" meet throughout the week. *Women*

Contact: Breanna Lutolf (breannajo1205@gmail.com)

MEN'S MINISTRY "Triads" meet throughout the week. *Men*

Contact: Curtis Chapman (curtiskchapman@gmail.com)

WELCOME Home

TITHES & OFFERINGS

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2. Give online through our **APP** or **WEBSITE**.
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10.12.2025



SERMON NOTES

INTRODUCTION

What is it like to have an “unshakable joy?” How many people really have that? What is their secret?

MAIN POINTS

Those who establish an “unshakable joy” have learned the secret is in “abiding.”

JOHN 15:4

4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

Abiding in Christ sustained Paul’s joy, and fixed his perspective on Christ despite his present imprisonment in Rome.

1. GRATITUDE FOR GOD’S PEOPLE

Paul sees the church in Philippi as a gift from God.

Philippians 1:3-4

As a pastor, many of you inspire me because your obedience to Christ reveals his “grace upon grace” in your life. It reveals his “favor upon favor” over you. So, the way that inspires me is it reminds me of two things:

FIRST, God is good.

SECOND, God delights in his people.

A.W. TOZIER

“Next to the Holy Spirit, the greatest aid to the spiritual life is the company of other Christians who are serious about their walk with God.”

Q: Do you have gratitude for God’s people – or do you take them for granted?

2. GRATITUDE IN PARTNERSHIP

The church wasn’t passive but engaged in the mission of the gospel.

Philippians 1:5-6

Paul had confidence that because of their heart for God, and their commitment to the mission of the gospel that “*He who began a good work in them would carry it on to completion.*”

KNOW THIS... God never starts something he doesn’t complete among those who are faithful to Him.

BUT BE AWARE... I believe your sin, your hardness of heart, and your rebellion does stop the transformational work of the Holy Spirit in your life – and the missional objectives God planned to accomplish through you.

WILLIAM CAREY (Missionary to India)

“I will go down into the pit if you hold the rope!”

Q: Are you partnering in advancing the gospel?

3. GRATITUDE IN AFFECTION

The love of Christ flowed with affection through Paul to the church in Philippi.

Philippians 1:7-8

Gratitude with affection feels sincere, real. Gratitude without affection sounds like an echo.

Christ like affection is unhurried. It stops. It expresses warmth and tenderness. It looks the wheelchair bound person in the eye instead of looking away. It listens attentively. And it offers handshakes and hugs generously.

ROMANS 12:10

10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

CONCLUSION

So... **JOY** is extolled through gratitude, experienced in partnership, and expressed with affection.