

Rejoice in the Lord: Devotional

The Book of Philippians is one of the New Testament letters written by the Apostle Paul during his imprisonment, likely around AD 62. Addressed to the Christian community in Philippi, a city in ancient Macedonia, this epistle is often celebrated for its themes of joy, unity, and perseverance in the face of adversity.

In this sermon series, we will discover that true joy transcends our circumstances. No matter the challenges we encounter on our journey, we can find the strength to “rejoice in the Lord.” Together, we'll explore how to cultivate a lasting joy that remains unwavering, even in the face of adversity. Join us as we uncover the profound truth that our joy is rooted in our relationship with God, not the situations around us.

Sermon Series Week TWO: “The Foundation of Joy”

Sermon Date: Sunday, July 20, 2025

Scripture: Philippians 1:3-11

Day 1: The Foundation of Joy - Reflection

Scripture: “I thank my God in all my remembrance of you...” (Philippians 1:3)

Devotion:

Paul finds joy in reflecting on God's faithfulness through relationships and past moments of grace. Reflection helps us recenter on what God has already done—especially when circumstances are hard.

Prayer:

Lord, help me discipline my thoughts to remember Your faithfulness. Bring to mind the moments You’ve saved, provided, and shown Your grace. Let that bring joy to my heart today.

Action:

Write down three past experiences where God’s faithfulness was evident in your life. Reflect on each with gratitude.

Questions:

When was the last time you intentionally remembered how God worked in your life?

What story from your past gives you the most confidence in God's future grace?

Day 2: The Foundation of Joy - Intercession

Scripture: “...always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy.” (Philippians 1:4)

Devotion:

Paul’s joy grew when he prayed for others. Intercession aligns our hearts with God’s work in others and deepens our love for them. It pulls us out of self-focus and into Spirit-led concern for others’ growth.

Prayer:

Father, help me find joy in praying for others. Teach me to partner with You in their growth and sanctification. May intercession become a source of deep joy.

Action:

Make a prayer list of five people and one specific thing to pray for each. Commit to praying for them all week.

Questions:

1. How often does your prayer life focus on others rather than yourself?
 2. Who in your life needs specific, consistent prayer today?
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Day 3: The Foundation of Joy - Affection

Scripture: *“For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.”*
(Philippians 1:8)

Devotion:

Paul’s deep affection wasn’t surface-level—it was Christ-shaped. Gospel affection means loving others sacrificially, genuinely, and persistently. True joy flows from relationships where Christ’s love is active.

Prayer:

Lord, soften my heart toward others. Remove any walls I’ve built in self-protection. Teach me to show the affection of Christ and find joy in loving deeply.

Action:

Reach out to one person you haven’t connected with in a while. Offer encouragement or simply let them know you care.

Questions:

1. Is there anyone God is calling you to love more deeply or forgive more freely?
 2. How would your relationships change if they were rooted in Christ’s affection instead of personal comfort?
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Day 4: The Foundation of Joy - Perspective

Scripture: “...he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion...” (Philippians 1:6)

Devotion:

Paul’s confidence wasn’t in people—it was in God’s faithfulness to finish what He starts. Joy comes when we stop obsessing over what we can’t control and start trusting in what God promises.

Prayer:

Father, thank You that You finish what You start. Help me to trust Your process and rejoice in Your faithfulness, even in the middle of the story.

Action:

Identify one unfinished area in your life or someone else’s. Instead of worrying, declare God’s faithfulness over it today.

Questions:

1. Where in your life do you need to stop striving and start trusting God’s timeline?
 2. How would your attitude change if you truly believed God was still working—even when you don’t see it?
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Day 5: The Foundation of Joy - Christ-Centered Living

Scripture: “...filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.” (Philippians 1:11)

Devotion:

Christ-centered living isn't about perfection—it's about surrender. When Jesus is your source and your goal, fruit naturally follows. And joy follows fruit.

Prayer:

Jesus, let my life bear fruit that glorifies You. May righteousness spring up in my attitudes, choices, and relationships. May joy overflow as I live for Your glory.

Action:

Examine your spiritual fruit. Ask the Holy Spirit to produce in you what only He can: true Christ-centered living.

Questions:

What “fruit” is most evident in your life right now—and what's missing?

What would change if your number one goal each day was to glorify Jesus?