

Rejoice in the Lord: Devotionals

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 EIGHT: “Joyous Leadership”

Sermon Date: Sunday, September 7, 2025

Scripture: Philippians 2:19-30

Day 1 – Leaders with Genuine Concern

Scripture:

“I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare. For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.”

Philippians 2:20–21

Daily Thought:

Paul commends Timothy because his heart is devoted to the church’s welfare. Genuine leaders are not driven by personal ambition or recognition but by Christ-centered compassion. True leadership smells like sheep - it requires being present with people, feeling their burdens, and pointing them to Christ.

Prayer:

Lord, give me Your eyes to see people as You see them, and Your heart to love them as You love them. Help me care for others’ spiritual, emotional, and physical needs with authenticity.

Action:

Reach out to someone who may feel overlooked - call, text, or visit them. Show that you genuinely care.

1. Questions:

Do people around me experience my leadership as self-serving or Christ-serving?

2. How can I practice genuine concern this week in my home, church, or workplace?

Day 2 – Leaders of Proven Character

Scripture:

“But you know Timothy’s proven character, because he has served with me in the gospel ministry like a son with a father.”

Philippians 2:22

Daily Thought:

Character is not proven in the spotlight but in the grind of everyday faithfulness. Leadership requires consistency over time - walking in integrity, humility, and faithfulness. The church deserves leaders whose lives echo the message they preach.

Prayer:

Father, search my heart. Reveal any hidden sin, selfishness, or pride. Shape me into a person of integrity, humility, and faithfulness that reflects Christ in every season.

Action:

Do a heart-check today. Write down areas where you need growth in character (e.g., humility, patience, faithfulness). Pray over each and take one concrete step to grow in it.

Questions:

1. Where in my life has God already tested and proven my character?
 2. What area of my character still needs refining for me to lead faithfully?
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Day 3 – Leaders Willing to Risk for the Gospel

Scripture:

“Because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up what was lacking in your ministry to me.”

Philippians 2:30

Daily Thought:

Epaphroditus risked his very life for the work of Christ. Leadership in the Kingdom is not about comfort—it is about courage. The Gospel is worth more than our lives, and leaders who risk it all for Christ inspire others to live boldly.

Prayer:

Jesus, give me courage to risk comfort, reputation, and even safety for the sake of Your name. Help me value the Gospel above all else.

Action:

Step outside your comfort zone to share the Gospel with someone this week. Pray for courage and clarity.

Questions:

1. What risks am I currently avoiding that God may be calling me to take?
 2. How do I respond when obedience to Christ costs me something?
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Day 4 – Honoring Faithful Leaders

Scripture:

“So then, welcome him in the Lord with great joy and honor people like him.”

Philippians 2:29

Daily Thought:

Paul urged the Philippians to honor Epaphroditus - not because he sought glory, but because he faithfully served Christ. Churches flourish when they both raise up godly leaders and joyfully honor those who lead with genuine concern, proven character, and sacrificial courage.

Prayer:

Lord, help me to honor and support the leaders You’ve placed in my life. May my words and actions encourage them to press on with joy.

Action:

Encourage a leader today - send a note, pray with them, or express gratitude for their faithfulness.

Questions:

1. Do I encourage and honor my leaders, or do I take them for granted?
 2. How can I cultivate a spirit of gratitude toward those who shepherd me?
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Day 5 – Joy in Leadership

Scripture:

“I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon so that I too may be cheered by news of you.”

Philippians 2:19

Daily Thought:

When leaders lead with genuine concern, proven character, and courage, and when the church honors such leaders, the result is joyous leadership—joy in the pulpit and joy in the pew. Ultimately, Christ is our supreme example of servant leadership.

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for being the perfect servant leader—laying down Your life for me. Make me more like You in the way I lead, serve, and love others.

Action:

Reflect on your sphere of influence (family, church, workplace). Identify one way you can bring Christ-like joy into your leadership this week.

Questions:

1. How does my leadership reflect the servant leadership of Christ?
 2. What practical step can I take to cultivate joy in both my leadership and my service?
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