

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 ELEVEN: “Is Jesus the One?”

Sermon Date: Sunday, October 5, 2025 (Pulpit Guests)

Scripture: Luke 7:18-35

Day 1 – Jesus Affirms Those Who Doubt

Scripture:

“John’s disciples told him about all these things. Calling two of them, he sent them to the Lord to ask, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?’”

- Luke 7:20

Thoughts:

Even the strongest believers - like John the Baptist - can experience doubt. In prison, alone and questioning, John asks Jesus directly, “Are you the One?” Jesus doesn’t rebuke John. Instead, He responds with evidence of His power and compassion - healing, restoring, and proclaiming good news.

When doubt creeps in, Jesus invites us to look again at His works - both in Scripture and in our lives. Doubt doesn’t disqualify us; it draws us back to dependence.

Action:

Write down three ways God has shown Himself faithful in your life. Revisit these reminders the next time you feel uncertain.

Prayer:

“Jesus, when I doubt, help me look to You. Remind me of Your power and Your love. Thank You that You meet me with grace and affirmation, not shame. Strengthen my faith today. Amen.”

Questions:

1. *When was the last time you doubted Jesus’ presence or plan?*
 2. *How has God affirmed His faithfulness to you recently?*
-

Day 2 – Jesus Teaches Those Who Seek

Scripture:

“After John’s messengers left, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John...”

- Luke 7:24

Thoughts:

Jesus turns to the crowd and honors John the Baptist’s faithfulness. Then He reveals a deeper truth: those in God’s Kingdom - even the least - are greater than John. Why? Because we live under grace, with the Holy Spirit dwelling in us.

Jesus delights in teaching those who come to Him with open hearts. Seeking isn’t weakness - it’s worship. Every sincere question is an invitation for revelation.

Action:

Spend 15 minutes today reading Luke 7:18–35 slowly. Ask Jesus to teach you something new about His heart.

Prayer:

“Lord Jesus, You are the best Teacher. Open my eyes to see Your truth and my heart to receive it. Make me hungry to learn from You daily. Amen.”

Questions:

1. *What’s one truth Jesus has been teaching you lately?*
 2. *How has seeking Him changed your understanding of who He is?*
-

Day 3 – Jesus Changes Lives

Scripture:

“Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk... the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.”

- Luke 7:22

Thoughts:

When Jesus steps in, everything changes. The blind see, the deaf hear, the broken are made whole. But He doesn't just transform circumstances - He transforms hearts.

Every encounter with Jesus brings change. If you've met Him, you're not who you used to be. Jesus isn't looking for perfection; He's looking for surrender.

Action:

Think of one area of your life Jesus has transformed. Share that testimony with someone today - encouragement multiplies faith.

Prayer:

“Jesus, thank You that You change everything. Continue to shape me into Your likeness. Use my story to reflect Your power and grace. Amen.”

Questions:

1. *In what ways has Jesus changed your life since you met Him?*
 2. *Where do you still need to let Him work?*
-

Day 4 – Jesus Confronts the Hard-Hearted

Scripture:

“To what, then, can I compare the people of this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplace...”

- Luke 7:31–32

Thoughts:

A hard heart refuses to respond - whether to joy or conviction. Jesus laments over those who hear truth but stay unmoved.

Spiritual immaturity resists both the dance of celebration and the lament of repentance. But when our hearts soften, we begin to feel again - to rejoice in grace and grieve over sin. Revival starts with repentance.

Action:

Ask the Lord to reveal any area of hardness in your heart. Write a prayer of repentance and gratitude for His mercy.

Prayer:

“Father, forgive me for the times I’ve resisted Your Spirit. Soften my heart. Help me to weep over sin and rejoice in Your salvation. Create in me a clean heart, O God. Amen.”

Questions:

1. *Where have you been resisting God’s call to change?*
 2. *What’s one step of repentance you can take today?*
-

Day 5 – Jesus Alone Fills the God-Shaped Hole

Scripture:

“Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”

- Luke 7:23

Thoughts:

Blaise Pascal said, “There is a God-shaped hole in every person.” We try to fill it with success, control, pleasure, or relationships — but only Jesus satisfies.

To declare “Jesus is the One” means surrender — He becomes the center, not an accessory. There can only be one on the throne. Will it be Him or you?

Action:

Identify one thing you’ve been using to fill the space meant for Jesus. Lay it down in prayer and ask Him to take first place in your heart.

Prayer:

“Jesus, You are the One. Forgive me for chasing substitutes. Be my center, my satisfaction, my Savior. Fill every empty place with Your presence. Amen.”

Questions:

1. *What are you trying to fill your “God-shaped hole” with right now?*
 2. *What would change if Jesus truly became the One in every area of your life?*
-