



THIS JOY THAT I HAVE
A Journey Through *Philippians*
Philippians 1:3-11

Series Aim: To equip and encourage believers to embrace and choose joy in every season of life.

A THANKFUL HEART v. 3

Paul expresses a grateful heart to the Philippians. Regardless of the difficulties of his circumstances the believers in Phillipi constantly remain at the forefront of his mind.

- During our own adversities, we should never lose sight of praying for others.
- Selfless praying is good medicine for our own troubled souls because it takes our gaze off from ourselves and refocuses it upon others.
- How often do you pray for others in spite of your own difficult circumstances?
- There is power in our memories. Thank God for the people in the family of God who have been a blessing in your life.

A JOYFUL SPIRIT v. 4

Supernatural joy is what floods Paul's heart as he sits imprisoned in Rome. Paul tells his hearers that he prays for them with joy.

- Does this kind of joy flood your heart?
- Does joy struggle to rise above adverse circumstances?
- Are your trials in your life quenching your spiritual zest?

A GOSPEL PARTNERSHIP v. 5

The word "fellowship" (koinonia) means to share something in common with another person. Paul shares in common fellowship with the Philippians in the work of the gospel. Though separated by many miles, they remain in partnership together in being fishers of men and spreading the message of salvation to the world. This joint participation in the gospel is what all believers, share together.

A CONFIDENT HOPE v. 6

Paul is convinced that his hearers are converted and consequently possesses a certainty about their future. The good work that God began in them commenced when the new birth made them alive in Christ. Salvation is not a matter of our working for God's acceptance, but it is God working for us and in us.

WE HAVE BEEN SAVED- Ephesians 2:5, Romans 8:24

Through Christ death on the cross we are positionally righteous before God.

WE ARE BEING SAVED-1 Corinthians 1:18

Even though we struggle with sin, we are being made new and like Christ daily.

WE WILL BE SAVED-Romans 5:9

We have hope as Christians, that one day we will be perfect like Christ.

AN AFFECTIONATE LOVE v. 7

Paul expresses his deep affections for the Phillipians. This inclusive love reveals how large-hearted he was toward "all" of the Phillipians. We must treat every believer in the church as a trophy of grace. We cannot reject those whom the Lord has accepted. We must not tolerate each other but love each other. No matter how doctrinally sound we may be, if we are without love our lives don't reflect the glory of God (**1 Corinthians 13:1**).

LOVE'S PRIORITY v. 9

Paul petitions that the Phillipians would grow in their love toward one another. This love for their fellow believers will grow as a result of their deepening love for God. The priority that Paul places upon loving other believers should occupy our prayers for others. When love in the midst of body grows, then it is more attractive to the world (**1 Corinthians 13:13**).

LOVE'S PRECISION v. 9

Authentic love requires penetrating discernment in the real needs of people as they find themselves in real-life situations. It means having a heart understanding of people's lives that perceives their deepest needs and how we can best meet those needs. Paul is not praying that the Phillipians would become smarter, but wiser, in their care for one another. We need spiritual perception in knowing how to encourage others. Without this God given wisdom, our love is often misguided.

LOVE'S PURITY v. 10

Paul prays that the Phillipian's walk will not fall into any moral failure that causes themselves or others to stumble. It matters to God how we live our lives. Forgiveness of sin does not bestow freedom to sin. The grace that pardons us is the same grace that must purify us.