Joy in Christ

Brent Moody · Philippians 4:4–7

INTRODUCTION

- Happiness is somewhat fragile. It's there and then it goes away because it's based on happenings, it's based on circumstances.
- Paul is demonstrating that joy in Christ is possible even in troubling and difficult circumstances.
- His joy is rooted in his purpose. And it's practiced in the humility of Jesus Christ and Christ's likeness, and it's sustained through persistence.

1 Purpose: Live With Purpose

- We need to be the kind of people who have purpose, who live with purpose, and this purpose is going to produce joy in our life, no matter what circumstances we're found in.
- What has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard.
- Joy is not a function of our circumstances. Joy is a function of our choices.
- Our purpose is to serve him and to glorify him.
- It's in the Lord that we find joy and that we rejoice, not in the comforts.

2 Practice: Have the Mind of Christ

Hebrews 12:2

- In humility, count others more significant than yourselves.
- We're going to live with the mind of Christ. We're going to practice day to day, trying to be more like him in the things that we do.
- Who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.
- Do all things without grumbling or disputing.
- Complaining is a killer of joy. It puts our minds on all the wrong things.

3 Don't Let Your Joy Be Taken Away

Philippians 3:2

- There's still sorrow. There's still grief, there's still pain, there's still difficulty in life, but we can face it in a very different way when we rejoice in the Lord.
- We can lose sight of our purpose and the joy that we once had can be taken away.
- Number one thing that strips joy from young people's life. I'll boil it down to one word. Phones.
- What is it in my life that is robbing me of joy? Am I willing to ask that question?

4 Persistence: I Press On

Philippians 3:12–14

- I'm not already perfect, but I press on to make it my own.
- I know my purpose. I know the practice of life, but I understand I'm going to have to be persistent in this. I can't just give up when it gets hard.
- I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
- Strain forward to what lies ahead. Set your gaze on what's ahead of you in the future.
- Pressing forward is hard, and it's tiring. It even hurts.

5 Peace: The Peace of God Will Guard Your Hearts

Philippians 4:4–7

- The peace of God that's going to guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus.
- Your purpose is you rejoice in the Lord, in the things of the Lord.
- Don't be anxious about anything, not because there are no issues to deal with, but because you have the right perspective.
- With prayer and supplication with thanksgiving. Not grumbling, not complaining, you do it with thanksgiving.

THE CHALLENGE

Remember your purpose. Remember to develop the mind of Christ and to persist even when it's hard. And that is the path to peace.

MY NOTES