

Series: Stand Fast In the Lord

THE SAINTS IN CHRIST JESUS ...
WITH JOY
PHILIPPIANS 1:1-8

Text: Philippians 1:1, 4

Philippians 1:1

¹ Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

Philippians 1:4

⁴ Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,

Introduction:

We looked this morning at the birth or founding of the church at Philippi.

The Philippian church was the first church Paul founded in Europe.

Paul came to Europe on his second missionary journey being directed there by the Holy Spirit.

Acts 16:9-10

⁹ And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us. ¹⁰ And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.

The conversion of Lydia the demon possessed girl and the Jailor marked the beginning of this church.

Paul addresses them as saints in Christ Jesus.

Paul had affection for them and they had great affection for Paul.

Though they were poor, they alone supported Paul financially at one stage of his ministry.

Philippians 4:15

¹⁵ Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.

Paul penned this letter to thank them for their support, inform them of his circumstances and warn them about the danger of false teachers and encouraged them to stand fast.

This letter was written from prison but the theme is joy.

Paul had learned the secrets of joy and peace and contentment in every circumstance.

Most people base their happiness on their circumstances mostly beyond their control.

Spiritual joy on the other hand, is not based on chance or circumstances but rather the deep and abiding confidence all is well between the believer and the Lord.

It important to remember these things about joy:

- Joy is a gift from God

Psalms 4:7-8

⁷Thou hast put gladness in my heart, more than in the time that their corn and their wine increased. ⁸I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety.

- Joy comes to those who believe the Gospel

Luke 2:10-11

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11 For unto you is born this

day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

John 15:11

11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

- Joy is experienced as believers receive and obey God's Word

Jeremiah 15:16

16 Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

1 John 1:4

4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

- A believer's joy is deepened through trials

1 Thessalonians 1:6

⁶ And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:

2 Corinthians 6:10

¹⁰ As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

James 1:2

² My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

1 Peter 1:3-6

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

- A believer's joy is made complete when they set hope on the glory of Heaven

Romans 12:12

¹² Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

1 Peter 1:8

⁸ Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

1 Peter 4:13

¹³ But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

Jude 1:24-25

²⁴ Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, ²⁵ To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

Remember when Paul wrote this letter his circumstances were dire. He was imprisoned in Rome, possibly facing execution.

In these verses Paul gives five specific things that have brought him joy.

Sermon Content:

Notice:

1. THE JOY OF RECOLLECTION

Philippians 1:3

³ I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,

Note Paul was thankful for the memories of these saints at Philippi.

A. Paul's remembrance of Lydia's salvation

Acts 16:13-15

¹³ And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither. ¹⁴ And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

¹⁵ And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.

It's interesting to note that Lydia was not from Philippi but God led her there to hear the truth and when she did her heart was opened.

It brought great joy to Paul remembering the conversion of Lydia.

Note also:

B. Paul's remembrance of the young demon possessed slave girl.

Acts 16:16-18

¹⁶ And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:

¹⁷ The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. ¹⁸ And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

Though this girl was a problem to begin with the power of God changed her.

That brought great joy to Paul the remembrance of this demon possessed girls conversion.

Paul must have remembered the time he spent in jail because of the slave girl's owners losing income and inciting the people against Paul and Silas.

Note also:

D. Paul no doubt remembered that even in a bad circumstance in prison, the jailor and his family's salvation.

Acts 16:26-34

²⁶ And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. ²⁷ And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.

²⁸ But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. ²⁹ Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, ³⁰ And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? ³¹ And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. ³² And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.

³³ And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. ³⁴ And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.

The saints who were in on the birth of this church brought great joy to the heart of Paul.

Illustration:

I was thinking as I was working on this message of the special people who were a part of the birth of the church in Missouri.

Though it has been 16 plus years since we have been here and over 20 years since the very first service of Mid-America Baptist Church; the remembrance of those people still brings great joy to my heart.

And then I think about you here at Temple Baptist Church who were in on its founding and are still faithfully serving the Lord it brings great joy to my heart.

Paul makes know the Joy of Recollection but secondly:

2. THE JOY OF INTERCESSION (VS. 4)

Philippians 1:4

⁴ Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,

Faithful and sincere prayer is much more than an obligation; it is a joy.

Those who are faithful in prayer are more preoccupied with the needs and well-being of others than their own and ask God to pour out His blessings on them.

Paul's prayers for the Philippians were offered with great appreciation, thankfulness, and joy.

Quote:

Someone has said real JOY comes when **J**esus comes first in our lives, the **O**thers and lastly **Y**ourself.

It brings great joy when we are in prayer for the saints.

We have considered two of the five specific things that have brought Paul joy.

Notice thirdly:

3. THE JOY OF PARTICIPATION (VS. 5)

Philippians 1:5

⁵ For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;

Though I'm not Paul or even close to the servant or example that he was, one thing we have in common is the joy it brings when those in the church are involved and participate.

When those whose hearts have been opened to the truth give their lives in service to the Lord it brings great joy.

Illustrations:

Mention some who have been faithfully serving the Lord with their lives.

- Jody
- Mike and Helen
- Donny and Caryn
- Mrs. Cooper
- Ms. Barbara
- My Wife

These saints were involved in participation but also in contributing so that the Gospel could be shared.

This brought great joy to Paul.

We have considered three of the five specific things that have brought Paul joy. Recollection, Intercession, and their Participation

Notice fourthly:

4. THE JOY OF ANTICIPATION (VS. 6)

Philippians 1:6

⁶ Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

Nothing can encourage a Christian more than knowing that despite life's uncertainties and difficulties there may be along the way, the Lord will bring us through.

It is the Lord who provides salvation and it is the Lord who will enable us to live the Christian life.

We are nothing without Him.

Paul knew what God had started with these saints, He would complete it.

One day God will call us home and with great anticipation we look forward to seeing Him who made salvation possible and enabled us to serve Him with our lives.

Note one final thing that brought joy to Paul.

5. THE JOY OF AFFECTION (VS. 7-8)

Philippians 1:7-8

⁷ Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace. ⁸ For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ.

Paul's presents a fifth element of joy – affection. There can be no greater joy than that produced by genuine affection for others.

Paul loved these people.

Love – genuine love bring joy.

Do we love the Lord as we should?

If we love Him we will keep His commandments.

Do we love the saints as we should?

If our love for the Lord is not right there is no way our love for the saints will be right, and if our love for the saints is not right then its proof our love for the Lord is not right for He has commanded us to love one another.

Close:

Let me close in mentioning some things that robs a believer of biblical joy.

Note:

- The influence of Satan

1 Peter 5:8

⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Psalm 51:12

¹² Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

This prayer in psalms was prayed after David committed adultery with Bathsheba and then had her husband killed.

- A lack of understanding and faith in God

Romans 8:28

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

It would have been easy for Paul to become bitter while in prison but he understood that ALL THINGS (both good and bad) work together for good to them that love God, and to them who are called according to His purpose.

- Prayerlessness steals our joy

Those who fail to pray lose sight of God's purpose, and provisions for us and either give up hope, or else seek help from other sources.

- Focusing on our circumstances and situations instead of the Saviour
- Ingratitude robs us of joy

Philippians 4:6

⁶ Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

¹⁸ In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Romans 1:18-21

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; ¹⁹ Because that which

may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. ²⁰ For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: ²¹ Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

- Forgetfulness also results in loss of joy

Psalm 103:2

² Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:

Revelation 2:4-5

⁴ Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. ⁵ Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

- Failing to forgive results in lack of joy

Matthew 6:14-15

¹⁴ For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: ¹⁵ But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

In conclusion the fellowship of God's people and the Lord's desire is that we have fullness of joy and we should find joy among the saints of God.

John 15:11

¹¹ These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.