



SERMON NOTES

"Joyride: Finding Joy in Places it Shouldn't be Found"
Week One - "The Prerequisites of Joy"
Philippians 1:1-7

Before we can find joy in places it shouldn't be found, we need a:

1. RESOLUTION

- Philippians 1:1-3
- RESOLUTION: Make a CHOICE to rejoice

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Philippians 4:8

2. REALIZATION

- Philippians 1:4-7
- REALIZATION: Believe that God is AT WORK
 - The joy I EXPERIENCE is directly tied to the CONFIDENCE I have in God
 - God's greatest WORKS often come out of our greatest SUFFERING

And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong. II Cor. 12:9-10

LIFEGROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

For the week of September 8, 2019

MY STORY

Philippi was one of the many cities that Paul had visited. What are the two best places you've ever visited. Why?

What is one place that you would like to visit? Why?

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

Acts 16 details Paul's suffering/persecution while in Philippi. Read of Paul's other sufferings in II Corinthians 11:23-29. Write down some of the emotions that you would have if you were enduring those things.

When you think about your own personal seasons of suffering, what were those experiences like? What emotions did you experience?

Read what Paul wrote in Phil. 4:8. What are the 8 characteristics of the thoughts we should have? What would be some examples of these kinds of thoughts?

Josh talked about "threshold thinking." What are some thoughts that Christians wrestle with that need to be "left at the threshold?"

Each of us have endured our own hardships, but we did not experience the joy that Paul did. How could the following verses help us to have joy during those times?
1 Peter 1:6-9 - James 1:2-4

Josh talked about his friend's "joyride." What are some things that Christians "joyride" in hopes of finding joy?

We learned that you can have joy even in dark places. Have you ever seen this occur? What happened?

As Paul looked back at his life, there were many instances in which he saw God at work. What are some times in your life that you remember seeing God at work?

TAKING IT HOME

Which comes easier for you: To resolve to make a choice to rejoice? Or to realize that God is at work?

Tell us about a time that you experienced joy when others thought you shouldn't have been able to do so.

Since we've been talking about times in life that are difficult to experience joy, is there anything that you are going through right now that our LifeGroup could be praying for and helping you with, if we only knew about it?