

Today's Theme

# “Journey To Joy”

Series Title

## “Finding Joy In Life” Part 2

July 18, 2021

### What It Takes To Have Consistent Joy

#### 1. We need to *focus on God* with difficulties.

##### View Difficulties & Problems Like Paul Did

##### (1) Allow *challenges* to reveal the *bigger* picture.

Phil 1:12 Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel.

Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

##### (2) Allow *problems* to produce *impact* for God.

Phil 1:13 As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. 14 And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

##### (3) Allow *difficulty* to develop my *trust* in God.

Psalms 56:3 When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.  
Ps 78:7 Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.  
Psalm 86:4 Bring joy to your servant, Lord, for I put my trust in you.

Prov 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

#### 2. We need to *build better priorities* in life.

##### Priorities That Lead To Joy

##### (1) When we *hear criticism* yet *not controlled* by it.

Phil 1:15 It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill.

1 Cor 4:3 I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself.

4 My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me.

##### (2) When we *celebrate & value* love.

Phil 1:16 The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. 17 The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains.

##### (3) When we *try* to put God *first* in all things.

Phil 1:18 But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached.

Matt 6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

##### (4) When we *refuse* to allow things to *steal* joy.

Phil 1:18 And because of this I rejoice.

Acts 7:5 “You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit!

1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. 7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.