

IV. STAY FOCUSED ON YOUR **PURPOSE**

- **Know** your purpose.

“according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.” Philippians 1:20

“19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

I Corinthians 6:19-20

- **Live** your purpose.

“21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

22 But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell.

23 For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.

24 Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.

25 And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith,

26 that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.

27 Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, Philippians 1:21-27

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” Galatians 2:20

GO BEYOND HAPPINESS AND CHOOSE #JOY

JOY

Beyond Happiness Finding Joy Through Suffering Pastor Steve Reynolds

INTRODUCTION

- A.** Have you lost your joy in a negative world? God is the source of true joy. No matter what circumstances you face, He will provide extreme joy in your life!

“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!”
Philippians 4:4

Joy is an internal choice of hope based on my belief in Jesus Christ.

- B.** The book of Philippians is my favorite book of the Bible:

1. It is a **personal** book that reveals a lot about Paul.
2. It is a **practical** book that deals with relevant issues.
3. It is a **positive** book that focuses on joy.

- C.** In this powerful study of the book of Philippians, you’ll discover the difference between happiness and joy, and how you can experience the lasting joy that God wants for your life.

Apr 21	The Joy Of Easter
Apr 28	Building Joyful Relationships
TODAY	Finding Joy Through Suffering
May 12	Experiencing Joy When You’re Stressed
May 19	The Secret Of Joy In Conflict
May 26	The Daily Joy Workout
Jun 2	The Keys To Eternal Joy
Jun 9	The Joy Of Doing Right
Jun 16	Discovering Joy Through Service
Jun 24	The Joy Of Generous Living

- D.** **Text:** Philippians 1:12-30 (Pew Bible/Page 202/New Test.)

FINDING JOY THROUGH SUFFERING

I. LOOK FOR THE **POSITIVE** IN EVERY SITUATION

“12 But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel,

13 so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ;

14 and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.” Philippians 1:12-14

There are two views on suffering:

- The human view focuses on why is this happening to **me**?

- The Divine view focuses on what is **God** seeking to do?

“16 Rejoice always,

17 pray without ceasing,

18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” I Thessalonians 5:16-18

II. DON'T DEPEND ON THE **APPROVAL** OF OTHERS

“15 Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill:

16 The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains;

17 but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel.

18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.” Philippians 1:15-18

“For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.” Galatians 1:10

“28 and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.

29 For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, 30 having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear is in me.” Philippians 1:28-30

Three types of negative people in your life:

- **Critics**
- **Competitors**
- **Conspirators**

“The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.” Proverbs 29:25

III. TRUST GOD TO **HELP** YOU OUT

“For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,” Philippians 1:19

“The LORD is my strength and my shield; My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; Therefore my heart greatly rejoices, And with my song I will praise Him.” Psalm 28:7

- Trust God to help you out through the **prayers** of others.

“18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— 19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,” Ephesians 6:18-19

- Trust God to help you out through the **Spirit** of Jesus.

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” II Timothy 1:7