

## JOYFUL...NO MATTER WHAT!

Philippians 1:12-26

My experience on a South African mission trip in 2005 taught me many things:

1. We get bogged down in our **circumstances**.
2. We get focused on the things we wish would change instead of the **unchangeable**.
3. We measure our joy in terms which are **fleeting** and **momentary**.
4. Joy is a matter of **choice**.

Philippians 1:12-26

1. Paul discovered **lasting joy** and chose to focus on and embrace God's perspective, priority, power and purpose.
2. The **background** to our passage – we must understand the context.
3. What is Paul's **secret**? How do you delight in the Lord while immersed in **difficulties**?
4. Paul spells out "How to be joyful no matter what."

I. God's **Perspective** To Live From (God's Point of View)

A. Paul saw three things from God's perspective:

1. Unbelievers were **hearing** the Gospel and **trusting** in Christ.
2. God was using Paul's **personal testimony** to teach others how to handle difficult circumstances.
3. Believers were being **encouraged**.

B. Two examples:

1. Paul's **encouraged** (Philippians 1:13)
  - **Wrote** much of the New Testament
  - Praetorian Guard was **led** to Christ
  - **Influencing** future leaders
2. **Contagious** courage (Philippians 1:14)

II. God's **Priority** To Live By

A. Why is choosing God's priority so important?

1. Need to know what is **really important**.
2. **Conserve** energy.
3. Distinguish between **trivial** and **significant**.
4. If I do not – **People, problems** and **circumstances** will make the choice for me.

### III. God's **Power** To Live On

#### A. Three Godly Power Sources (Philippians 1:19)

1. The **prayers** of God's people.
2. The **power** of the Holy Spirit.
3. The **hope** of God.

### IV. God's **Purpose** To Live For

#### A. Why is God's purpose so important?

1. A life purpose is the **bedrock**.
2. A life purpose is the **foundation** out of which we operate and make decisions.
3. While I'm here, I have a purpose for living my life in **light of eternity**. (Philippians 1:21)

Conclusion