



HARBOUR
SHORES
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Date: August 17, 2025

Series: Philippians: Triumphant, Tenacious, Battle-Tested JOY!

Title: "The Battle-Tested Community"

Text: Philippians 1:1-2; Acts 16

Introduction: Triumphant, tenacious, battle-tested joy is not found in the absence of suffering or opposition, but in a deep-rooted **identity** and shared **mission** that is greater than any trial.

"Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."
(Philippians 1:1-2)

I. The Church at Philippi: A **Miraculous Gospel Church Plant. (Acts 16)**

- A church initiated through **divine intervention**. (Acts 16:6-10)
- A church founded with **unlikely** "charter members." (Acts 16:6-10)
 - A foreign businesswoman, Lydia (Acts 16:11-15)
 - A former slave girl (Acts 16:16-24)
 - A Philippian jailer (Acts 16:25-34)
- A church begun in **persecution** (Acts 16:35-40)

II. The Letter to the Philippians: An **Intimate Message of Joy**

- **Personal** language & messages: Philippians 1:3-8; 1:26-27; 2:1-2; 2:25-30; 4:1
- **Instructive & encouraging themes:** suffering, humility, unity, partnership in the gospel, righteousness in Christ, continued Christian growth, prayer, the peace of God, and contentment.
- **Engaging, **familiar** verses:** Philippians 1:6; 1:21; 2:9-11; 2:12-13; 3:8; 3:12-14; 3:20; 4:4; 4:6-7; 4:8; 4:11-12; 4:13

III. The Greeting: From: Gospel **Servants, To: **Saints** in Christ (Philippians 1:1-2)**

- True Joy is experienced in **Shared Gospel Mission** (v. 1a)
- True Joy is Rooted in God Given **Identity** & Calling (v. 1b; 1 Corinthians 1:2)
- True Joy is a **Gift** of Grace and Peace (v. 2; 4:7, 9)

Conclusion: True Joy is Most Fully Experienced in **Community**!

Questions to Consider and Discuss:

1. **Triumphant, tenacious, battle-tested joy** is something forged in adversity, not in the absence of it. What is one personal example of a time when your joy was strengthened through a difficult or challenging experience?
2. The early Philippian church was made up of **unlikely people** from different social backgrounds—a businesswoman, a slave girl, and a jailer. What steps can we take to intentionally welcome and connect with people from different walks of life in our own church community?
3. Paul and Timothy identified themselves as **servants of Christ Jesus**. How does viewing ourselves as servants—rather than just followers—shift our perspective on our role within the church and in our daily lives?
4. The bond between Paul and the Philippians **was formed through shared mission, shared identity, and mutual support**. How can we more actively cultivate a sense of shared mission and deep fellowship with one another?
5. How does your **God-given identity in Christ** shape your everyday mission and your perspective on both your current life and your eternal hope?
6. Paul's greeting is a message of **grace and peace**. How can we practically live in a way that relies upon the gift of God's grace and peace, even when facing conflict?