

**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 \_\_\_\_\_ and shared \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Gospel Church Plant. (Acts 16)**

- **A church initiated through \_\_\_\_\_.** (Acts 16:6-10)
- **A church founded with \_\_\_\_\_ "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 \_\_\_\_\_** (Acts 16:35-40)

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

- \_\_\_\_\_ **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, \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_, To: \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ (Philippians 1:1-2)**

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

**Conclusion:** True Joy is Most Fully Experienced in \_\_\_\_\_!

## 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?