

Date: September 7, 2025

Series: Philippians: Triumphant, Tenacious, Battle-Tested Joy

Title: The Root of Joy

Text: Philippians 1:12-18



INTRODUCTION

*“Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you FOR YOUR JOY,
for you stand firm in your faith.” (2 Corinthians 1:24)*

“For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” (Philippians 1:21)

I. THE ROOT OF JOY

“...and in that I rejoice.” (Philippians 1:18b)

“I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the Gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.” (Philippians 1:12-13)

1) The Gospel can never be chained! It is advancing, making progress, “chopping” through obstacles as Paul glorifies Christ in prison!

2) Perhaps the situation in which you feel yourself to be “chained” to a particular person or school environment or office setting or family member or neighbor is God’s way of bringing the Gospel, through YOU, to those who need to know Jesus!

“And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.” (Philippians 1:14)

3) Courage is contagious! Courage that is rooted in Christ and that grows out of a love for Him visibly demonstrates to other believers just how good and worthy Jesus is!

Question #1 - What would the soldiers have heard from you, if they had been chained to you?

Question #2 - How does your attitude, your example, and your speech influence others?

“Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment.” (Philippians 1:15-17)

4) With the well-known, well-loved Apostle in prison, some were desperately seeking to take his place, to steal his prominence, and to gain some measure of fame during his absence. They accurately communicated truth about Jesus, but their motives were wrong; they were actually hoping to make Paul miserable through their preaching and rise in popularity.

(Numbers 11:28-29 and John 3:26-30)

“When then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.” (Philippians 1:18)

5) God’s word is living and active. The Gospel is powerful. God is able to use the truth concerning Christ for good, even when it is spoken from bad or mixed motives.

(Isaiah 55:10-11)

Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

1. How did Paul view his imprisonment? What words did he use to describe it?
2. How did Paul spend his time in prison? What did he do? What was the fruit?
3. Are people that you feel “chained” to at times? How can you use those moments to glorify Jesus?
4. According to verse 14, why was Paul’s courage contagious? What did it produce?
5. How did Paul respond to those who were preaching Christ in an attempt to make him jealous or miserable? What does Paul’s reaction reveal about his heart and his joy?