

# Joy

THE BOOK OF  
PHILIPPIANS

Joy: Choose Joy  
Dr. Mark Batterson  
June 5/6th

You can experience UNSPEAKABLE JOY right here, right now!

Question. Are you enjoying the journey?

Or have you fallen into that WHEN/THEN trap?

**JOY is a PERSON** and His name is Jesus. Joy is more RELATIONAL than it is EMOTIONAL. There is joy and then there is the joy of the Lord. The world can't give it, and the world can't take it away. Why? It's RIGHT RELATIONSHIP with my Creator, with My Heavenly Father, with my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**JOY is a CHOICE.** It's more VOLITIONAL than it is EMOTIONAL. It's not always the EASIEST choice. It's not always the OBVIOUS choice. But you can CHOOSE JOY anywhere, anytime, anyway.

**Joy isn't getting what you want, Joy is appreciating what you have!**

Choose Joy!

Nehemiah 8:10  
James 1:2  
Psalm 51:12  
Philippians 4:4

Philippians 1:1

PARDES - **Four levels** of learning/studying.

Level one is **PESHAT**: the plain reading of Scripture.

Level two is **REMEZ**: it literally means “hint.”

Level three is **DERESH**: it means “search,” as in Google search.

Level four is **SOD**: it means “secret.” This is where we need the Holy Spirit’s help.

The goal isn’t getting through Scripture. The goal is getting Scripture through us!

Philippians - Paul is writing from a prison cell in Rome, somewhere around 60-62 AD. He’s writing to the church at Philippi.

Paul is writing to Roman citizens.

Philippi sat on the Via Egnatia (a major military route that ran east to west).

Paul is writing to friends.

Philippians 1:3-6

Acts 16:6-12 - Paul’s second missionary journey

1. If you want to make God laugh, tell Him your plans.
2. What we see as a DETOUR is often the DESTINATION.
3. Someday we’ll thank God for CLOSED DOORS as much as open doors.
4. God wants you to get where God wants you to go MORE THAN you want to get where God wants you to go, and He’s really good at getting us there.

Philippi wasn’t Plan A.

Asia was Plan A. Bithynia was PLAN B.

Philippi was PLAN P.

Proverbs 16:9

What we see as a DETOUR is often the DESTINATION.

“When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don’t throw away the ticket and jump off. You sit still and TRUST THE ENGINEER.” - Corrie Ten Bloom

**Praise God for closed doors**

**God has blessings in categories that you can’t even imagine.**

These are the words of Him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. - Revelation 3:7-8.

**God wants you to get where God wants you to go MORE THAN you want to get where God wants you to go, and He's really good at getting us there!**

TRUST THE ENGINEER. And while you're at it, ENJOY THE JOURNEY.

Acts 16:13-15

Around midnight, Paul and Silas were PRAYING and SINGING HYMNS to God, and the other prisoners were listening. - Acts 16:25

PROPHECY YOUR PRAISE.

Darrell Evans song - [I'm Trading My Sorrows](#)

I'm trading my sorrows, I'm trading my shame  
I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord  
I'm trading my sickness I'm trading my pain  
I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord

He's the God who gives beauty for ashes. He's the God who gives the OIL OF JOY for mourning. He's the God who gives the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.

Would you prophesy your praise?

**A PRAYER to PRAY:** Jesus, we choose joy! We recognize that your plans are the only plans that we want to fulfill. Help us to see clearly where you want us to go. Help us to not get discouraged when it seems like plan a and plan b and plan c are all closed doors. Give us the confidence to know that the doors which are meant to be opened will open wide and the path through will be clear, even if it doesn't feel like where we thought we would end up. Be with us in every moment of every day, give us the confidence to choose joy, to choose Jesus, and to enjoy the journey along the way. In Jesus name amen.

**For more info about following Jesus, go to [ncc.re/followJesus](http://ncc.re/followJesus)**

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Sermon Discussion Guide: [ncc.re/discuss](http://ncc.re/discuss)

NCC Daily: [national.cc/daily](http://national.cc/daily)

---ANNOUNCEMENTS: Sign up for a Group: [ncc.re/groups](http://ncc.re/groups)

Win The Day: Habit #7 "Seed the Clouds": <https://vimeo.com/503316805/8ac9c0f94f>

Upper Zoom (Tu, We, Th at 7:14am): [ncc.re/upperzoom](http://ncc.re/upperzoom)