

# Joy

THE BOOK OF  
PHILIPPIANS

## Joy: Choose Joy

*June 5th & 6th*

**Speaker:** Dr. Mark Batterson

**Scripture:** Acts 16

### Series Overview

“Joy. It’s not getting what you want. It’s appreciating what you have. Joy isn’t always the easiest choice or the obvious choice, but joy is a choice. The Apostle Paul said, “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again, rejoice!” And his life is louder than his words. Paul writes his letter to the Philippians from a prison cell. You can choose joy anywhere, anytime, anyway!”

### Series Discussion Questions

How do you choose joy?

### Message Overview

It’s not always the EASIEST choice or the OBVIOUS choice, but you can CHOOSE JOY anywhere, anytime, anyway. Joy isn’t getting what you want. Joy is appreciating what you have. Enjoy the journey!

### Message-Specific Discussion Questions

**How would you describe joy?**

**Read Acts 16:6-12** Place yourself in the midst of Paul on this journey, and think through each of these 4 observations that Pastor Mark presented.

- If you want to make God laugh, tell Him your plans.
- What we see as a detour is often the destination.
- Someday we’ll thank God for closed doors as much as open doors.
- 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.

**Take some time to answer these questions based on the text and observations.**

- How do you respond when your plans do not go according to how you thought they would?
- How has God allowed a detour to get you to your destination?
- Think back to a time in your life when God closed a door that you desperately wanted Him to open. What are some ways that you dealt with the closing of a door?
- What can you do to place your full trust in God?

In Acts 16:13 God turned Paul's closed door into an appointment with Lydia. Lydia accepted Jesus into her heart and was baptized. **Share a story when God allowed a closed door in your life to turn into a testimony.**

Throughout these experiences in your life, **How have you been able to enjoy the journey?**

### Practical Application

- In Acts 16:25 Paul and Silas were praying and singing in a prison. Even though the situation that they were in did not seem optimal, they worshiped. **Take some time this week to journal through your current situation, and as Pastor Mark says: *prophesy your praise.***
- Find a daily rhythm of connecting with God and with one another by committing to NCC daily, a five-minute audio podcast to help you walk verse-by-verse through the book of Phillipians. Each day we'll be guided through the practice of listening, reflecting, responding, and resting in the Word of God — allowing space for the Holy Spirit to cultivate joy in unique and personal ways. **Subscribe [here!](#)**
- Climb the stairs to the [Upper Zoom](#) each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 7:14am. We'll come together as a community to start our days in His presence together, listening intently, and responding in prayer. **Register at [ncc.re/UpperZoom](http://ncc.re/UpperZoom).**