

Party on... series

“Lets Get this Party Started!”

Philippians 1:1-11

The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

John 10:10 (NLT)

I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”

John 16:33 (NLT)

How Happy are you? _____

This letter is from Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus. It is written to all of God's people in Philippi, who believe in Christ Jesus, and to the elders and deacons.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

Philippians 1:1-2 (NLT)

Happiness is dependent on circumstances.

Joy is independent of circumstances.

The Secret to being annoyingly joyful:

1. Remember Yesterday.

Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. I always pray for you, and I make my requests with a heart full of joy because you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. And I am sure that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on that day when Christ Jesus comes back again.

Philippians 1:3-6 (NLT)

A mob quickly formed against Paul and Silas, and the city officials ordered them stripped and beaten with wooden rods. They were severely beaten, and then they were thrown into prison. The jailer was ordered to make sure they didn't escape. So the jailer put them into the inner dungeon and clamped their feet in the stocks.

Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening. Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors immediately flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off! The jailer woke up to see the prison doors wide open. He assumed the prisoners had escaped, so he drew his sword to kill himself. But Paul shouted to him, “Stop! Don't kill yourself! We are all here!”

The jailer called for lights and ran to the dungeon and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

Acts 16:22-30 (NLT)

2. Enjoy Today.

It is right that I should feel as I do about all of you, for you have a very special place in my heart. We have shared together the blessings of God, both when I was in prison and when I was out, defending the truth and telling others the Good News. God knows how much I love you and long for you with the tender compassion of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:7-8 (NLT)

3. Focus on Tomorrow.

I pray that your love for each other will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in your knowledge and understanding. For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until Christ returns. May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation--those good things that are produced in your life by Jesus Christ--for this will bring much glory and praise to God.

Philippians 1:9-11 (NLT)

SO WHAT?

Yesterday:

Today:

Tomorrow:

How happy are you now? _____

Growth Group Questions

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. Who is the most upbeat, happy, or joyful person you know?

Why do you think they are like that?

2. How happy are you on a scale of 1-10, Right now? Why?

Tell of a time you were a higher number?

Tell of a time when you were a lower number?

How and Why do your numbers change?

3. Re-read Philippians 1:3-5. Who do you Thank God for in your life right now? Who brings you joy when you are down?

4. Re-read Philippians 1:9-10. How can you keep growing in your love, knowledge & Understanding, and your joy?

5. Share your "So What" items from Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow.

Which category is most meaningful for you right now?
(Yesterday, Today, or Tomorrow?)

6. Which category (Yesterday, Today, or Tomorrow) do you need to surrender or trust to God to find more Joy? How can you do that?