

The

POWER OF JOY



Joy in Relationships

Philippians 2:1-11

“All men seek happiness. This is without exception. Whatever means they employ, they all tend to this end.” Blaise Pascal

Made for Joy

These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.
John 15:11

Our Joyful God

“We should, to begin with, think that God leads a very interesting life, and that he is full of joy. Undoubtedly he is the most joyous being in the universe. The abundance of his love and generosity is inseparable from his infinite joy. All of the good and beautiful things from which we occasionally drink tiny droplets of soul-exhilarating joy, God continuously experiences in all their breadth and depth and richness.” Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy*

Joy is a pervasive and constant sense of well-being that claims our entire body and soul. It is propelled by our confidence in the goodness and abiding presence of God.”

Joy in Relationships: Philippians 2:1-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

Action Point: Delighting in Relationships –

So, if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy...

complete my joy...

by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus

The Joy of Christ

...fix your eyes on Jesus... who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross... Hebrews 12:2

though he was in the form of God,

did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped

but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant,... he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Resources:

The Divine Conspiracy by Dallas Willard

Paul for Everyone by Tom Wright

Living in Christ's Presence by Dallas Willard

The God and Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ by Darrell John (Class at Regent College)

Digging Deeper into Joy

This week's passages:

Monday – Philippians 1

Tuesday – Philippians 2

Wednesday – 1 Corinthians 1

Thursday – Philippians 3

Friday – Philippians 4

Weekend – Review the most meaningful passages of the week.

This Week's Big Idea: Joy is the fruit of a life lived in vital fellowship with God (in Jesus' words, the abiding life), and with one another.

Each day this week you are invited to read the day's passage and then respond to the following questions. Take special note of Paul's comments about joy and relationships within the community of Christ followers. You might find it beneficial to use a journal or notebook to record insights.

1. **Read** the passage prayerfully, listening for the voice of God and asking him to speak to you.
2. **Record** or write down the word, phrase, or verse that God impresses upon you.
3. **Reflect** and write down what it is about this word, phrase or verse that is meaningful to you.
4. **Respond** by writing a prayer or recording what it is that you think the Lord wants you to do in response to his word ("Be doers of the word and not hearers only" James 1.22).