









WHY JOY?

- **JOY** is the fingerprint God leaves behind in my life.
- **JOY** is makes me living proof of a loving God to a lost world.
- **JOY** is the bi-product of the Spirit-filled life.
- **JOY** is God's will for me.



“Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

PHILIPPIANS 1:6

Confidence that God’s at work—and will complete his work—is the underpinning of Biblical joy.

“Being confident” comes by exerting trust.



“It is right for me to feel this way about you, since I have you in my heart. For whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God’s grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.”

PHILIPPIANS 1:7-8



“And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.”

PHILIPPIANS 1:9-11

A HIGHER WAY TO PRAY

Rather than praying for his supernatural deliverance, Paul prays for the Philippians’ spiritual vitality:

- **A GROWING LOVE** — ever-increasing in capacity.
- **A KNOWING LOVE** — rooted in Biblical truth (over human emotion).
- **A DISCERNING LOVE** — applying Biblical knowledge precisely and consistently.

A HIGHER WAY TO PRAY

NEVER,
“God, get me outta here!”
RATHER,
“God use this for my purity (v.10) that
will result in your praise” (v.11).

THE RECIPE FOR JOY



*“I want you to know that what has happened to
me has really served to advance the gospel.*

PHILIPPIANS 1:12

Paul’s strategy was to
go to Rome as a
preacher.
(Acts 19:21, Romans 1:15)

He went
instead as a
prisoner.

A GOSPEL ADVANCE

Advance: prokope
progress; a pioneer advance

Paul saw his imprisonment not as a detour, but as a doorway.

Every detour in life is really a **door** to a new opportunity I otherwise would have missed.



"I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained."

2 TIMOTHY 2:9

CHAINS THAT FREE

1

Paul's chains freed him to preach to the Roman soldiers.



"As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ."

PHILIPPIANS 1:13

CHAINS THAT FREE

2

Paul's chains freed him to preach in Caesar's court.



"All God's people send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's household."

PHILIPPIANS 4:22

CHAINS THAT FREE

3

Paul's chains freed him to embolden believers.



"Because of my chains, most of the believers have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear."

PHILIPPIANS 1:14

HOW TO REPURPOSE CHAINS

STEP 1

Identify the chains in my life right now:

Physical limitations, financial challenges, a hard marriage, singleness, hostile work environment, etc.

HOW TO REPURPOSE CHAINS

STEP 2

Thank God for each chain.

"My God, I have never thanked Thee for my thorns. I have thanked Thee a thousand times for my roses, but not once for my thorns. I have been looking forward to a world where I shall get compensation for my cross: but I have never thought of my cross as itself a present glory. Teach me the glory of my cross: teach me the value of my thorn. Show me that I have climbed to Thee by the path of pain. Show me that my tears have made my rainbow."

GEORGE MATHESON

HOW TO REPURPOSE CHAINS

STEP 3

Take advantage of my disadvantage to talk about Jesus this week.

OUR FINEST HOUR

“Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves that if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, people will still say, ‘This was their finest hour.’”

WINSTON CHURCHILL



PART 2

YOUR FINEST HOUR
