



Sermon Discussion Questions – July 14, 2024

Scripture Passages:

Philippians 1:3-6 I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, 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.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Philippians 1:9-11 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

John 16:33 I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

Philippians 1:9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight.

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Philippians 1:12-14 Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

Philippians 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Psalms 16:11 You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Discussion:

1. Read Philippians 1:3-6. What does it mean to pray with joy? Have you ever prayed with joy? What makes those prayers different?
2. Pastor Scott made the point "Joy is internal, not external."
If joy comes from within, how can we cultivate it even when faced with external circumstances that might bring us down?
3. Pastor Scott's 2nd point was "Joy is found in an intimate knowledge of the savior."
How does intimate knowledge of the savior bring joy? How have you found this to be true in your life?
4. Pastor Scott's 3rd point was "Joy shifts my perspective and moves me in the right direction."
How can we harness the power of joy to overcome challenges and make positive choices in our lives?
5. Pastor Scott's last point was "Joy empowers us to live life to the full."
What does it mean to you to live life to the full? What does it mean to do it with joy?

Next Steps:

Pastor Scott ended with this:

Let me close with the final thought -taken from the Psalms and I want you to notice the past, present and future tense of this verse:

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalm 16:11 (ESV)

This is what joy does. It sets up camp right in the middle of two theologies, two realities. God's faithfulness is pursuing us from the past, and God's sovereignty is bearing down on us from the future.

- Look back, and it's so far so God
- Look ahead, and the best is yet to come

We can have joy that will sustain us, encourages, and ultimately change the way we see and live life – this was Paul's prayer and this is my prayer for you...

- If you lost your joy
- If you are feeling buried
- Maybe you are here and you don't have joy because you don't know him intimately and that's where you want to start

What next step do you feel God calling you to when it comes to joy in your life? What can you do this week to make that happen?