

Where can we find joy?

Philippians 1:3-8

³ I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ 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. ⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about all of 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. ⁸ God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.¹

As Paul begins his letter to the church in Philippi, he gives us some insight into where he got his joy. He starts to pray for the church. In verses 3-8, he expresses his thanks. In verses 9-11, he voices his requests. In his thanks to God, he reveals three reasons why he was joyful, despite his circumstances.

- **Joy comes from partnering with others to serve Christ (3-5)**

"I thank God for your partnership in the gospel."

- **Joy comes from knowing that God is at work in the lives of those we serve Christ with (6)**

"I thank God for what he is doing in your life."

- **Joy comes from building deep relationships with those we serve Christ with (7-8)**

"I thank God for our deep friendship."

We experience joy as we build deep relationships with others who serve Christ.

¹ *The Holy Bible: New International Version*. 1996, c1984 (electronic ed.). Grand Rapids: Zondervan.