

“Indestructible Joy”

Philippians 1:1-2 & Acts 16:6-15 - *Pastor Josh Gerber*

Is Philippians right for you? 9 diagnostic questions

(answer yes or no)

1. Are you struggling with changes in your church? Does it seem different than the church you grew up in?
2. Do you struggle to maintain joy and happiness in your life? Do you need a joy-infusion?
3. Are you experiencing any conflict with other people in your church?
4. Do you struggle with the death of a loved one, on one hand being thankful they are with the Lord, and on the other wishing they were still here?
5. Do you ever lose perspective on what is temporary compared to the things that are eternal?
6. Do you ever struggle with selfishness and wishing that other people would serve you?
7. Do you face any tensions in your job or in society in being in the world but not of the world?
8. Are you worried about becoming useless in God's kingdom? Are you concerned that God might be done with you, and has moved on to other people?
9. Do you experience feeling connected to others in church? Does it seem like you are lost in it, unable to really know others?

Main Point: **We are called and empowered to live as humble, joy-filled citizens of a heavenly kingdom, behaving in a manner worthy of the gospel, demonstrated through our selfless service, unity, and Christlike mind, and manifested in our proclamation of the glorious news of a joy-filled God.**

1. **Called and empowered to live as humble, joy-filled citizens of a heavenly kingdom**
 - Belonging and Humility
 - Citizenship
 - Joy
2. **Behaving in a manner worthy of the gospel, demonstrated through our selfless service, unity, and Christlike mind,**
 - Spiritual Growth
 - Selfless service
 - Unity/Fellowship
 - Christlike thinking
3. **And manifested in our proclamation of the glorious news of a joy-filled God.**
 - Gospel Proclamation
 - Joy-Filled God

Sermon Discussion Questions

1. What excites you about studying Philippians?
2. Philippians can seem like a book that doesn't relate to us. Which of the 9 questions that were listed can you relate to, and why?
3. Paul identifies himself as a servant. What makes it hard for us to serve well?
4. What tensions do you face between living in this world and being a citizen of heaven?
5. Would you describe yourself as a joy-filled person? Why or why not?
6. Why is joy important in our Christian walk?
7. Do you tend to think of God as joy-filled? How does the joy of God encourage you?