



THRIVE

A LOOK AT
PHILIPPIANS

A large, leafy tree stands in a field of tall grass under a bright, cloudy sky. A large, white circular graphic is overlaid on the image, framing the tree and the text. The text is centered over the tree's trunk.

Don't Just Survive
THRIVE

Session #1: Praying with Joy

Text: Philippians 1:3-11

Outline of the text

- The Frequency of Paul's Thanksgiving (v.3)
- The Manner of Paul's Thanksgiving (v.4)
- The Reasons of Paul's joyful Thanksgiving (v.5-6)
- The context of Paul's Thanksgiving (v.7-8)
- The Goal of Paul's Thanksgiving (v.9-11)

*Question #1: How do we
understand the difference
between happiness and joy?
(v.3-6)*

Opening Thought

Paul rejoices because his circumstances strengthened the fellowship of the Gospel.

Defining the terms

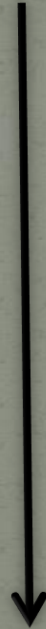
- Happiness is dependent on happenings
Joy is dependent on Jesus
- Happiness reflects a horizontal perspective
Joy reflects a vertical perspective

What is the Key?

Jesus

Others

Yourself



John 15:11, “I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”

Joy in the Partnership

The Sign of our professed love for the gospel is the measure of sacrifice we are prepared to make in order to help it progress.

Prayer Thought

- 90% of all divisions between true believers in this world would disappear if Christians would learn to pray specifically and consistently for one another in the form Paul is doing here.

*Question #2: What are some
Obstacles that hinder us from
building deeper relationships?*

(v.7-8)

I have you in my heart

At the Core of Paul's joy was a deep love for the savior that spilled out into love for people.

Christian Joy is **Christ-centered** and **Others-oriented**.

Share in the God's Grace

One aspect of God's grace is the divine influence upon the heart. Grace will reflect in the life of a believer; hence the need to share in the grace as we serve with one another. (see "one another" handout)

*Question #3: Why are both
knowledge and discernment
necessary for loving others?*

(v.9-11)

Paul's Prayer for the Church

As each believer learned more and more about God and his ways the entire congregation would experience a stronger fellowship and love for one another.

- The Ephod in the Old Testament

Knowledge and discernment

- Knowledge ask the question “What is Right?”
- Discernment ask the question “What is Best?”

**Paul is directing us to
think about what really matters**

Thrive Thought

For Paul Joy is not the result of finding himself in comfortable circumstances but of seeing the gospel make progress through his circumstances and the circumstances of the Philippians.

How will you begin to allow this prayer to (1) make your love abound more (2) become a part of your regular prayer life for the church?