

Partners in Joy - Philippians 1:3-8

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup> In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy <sup>5</sup> because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

We are not made to be alone. God made us to be in community with others. This is especially true in times of difficulty or hardship.

We find joy in...

**J**esus

**O**thers

**Y**ourself

...but only when it's in that order.

1. Our joy and satisfaction comes from Jesus alone. but we also receive the joy of Jesus Christ through our partnership with others.
2. What are some ways that other Christians has brought joy into your life? How often do you thank God to them in prayer?
3. Paul's prayer of gratitude and joy is for everyone in the church. Paul doesn't let negative instances and conflicts robs him of his joy with people. How does the gospel keep you in fellowship with others?
4. Paul's joy come from being in partnership with others in the gospel. Who are your partners in the Gospel? Why are partnership such a powerful bound for friendship?
5. Joy comes from anticipation. How does our anticipation that God will complete his work in us bring us joy? How does this anticipation affect the way you see others?