Finding Joy in Our Lives

Ken Chapman · Philippians 1:3–11

INTRODUCTION

- Because life is a roller coaster, isn't it?
- Joy and rejoice, 16 times in four brief chapters. And in fact, they pervade every chapter.
- Not just joy in the momentary happiness because things are going right, but an abiding joy, despite the circumstances of life.

1 I Have You in My Mind

Philippians 1:3–5

- I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine, making request for you with all joy for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now.
- The joy is found in fellowship. Fellowship with God and fellowship with God's people.
- This joy is not based upon external circumstances. It can rise above those external circumstances.
- Don't ever forget where Paul is when he's writing this letter. He's in the darkest of valleys.
- They've just missed out on the joy that is to be experienced in God's family and in this fellowship.

2 I Have You in My Heart

Philippians 1:6–8; Ephesians 5:1–2

- Being confident of this very thing, that he who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.
- The child of God finds his joy in confidence. Confidence that doesn't reside in self, but that resides where it ought to reside in the steadfast, steady, strong hand of God.
- God started something in you, Paul says. And God's not a quitter. He's going to finish it.
- Don't doubt the confidence and the willingness of God to get you to heaven.
- He loved them with the love of God. He loved them as God loved them.
- That's the affection of Jesus Christ. That God loved the unlovable.

3 I Have You in My Prayers

Philippians 1:7; Philippians 1:9–10

- Inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and the confirmation of the gospel, you're all partakers with me of grace.
- They had been a steady source of encouragement to Paul. And that's what had fostered this relationship.
- Paul would say to the Philippians and others, in commending them, you were not ashamed of my chains.
- You were with me on the mountaintop, and you're the same with me in the valley.

- This I pray that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent.
- It's not all about love. It's not all about knowledge. It's about love and knowledge and discernment.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Would you immerse yourself in this cause and support it and defend it and love it and rejoice in it until the joy of all joys calls you home?**

MY NOTES