

THE UPSIDE OF DOWN #2

Paul's Letter to the Philippians

- A personal letter
- A practical letter
- A positive letter

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There is no easy way to go through trouble, but there is a right way – learning, trusting, hoping, praying, growing.

There are positives that we mustn't miss. There is an upside of down.

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He [Messiah] will “bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of despair.”

Isaiah 61:3

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Isaiah is speaking of Jesus Christ and telling us that when Jesus Christ comes he will bring joy to the world. The crown of beauty, the oil of gladness, the garment of praise are all symbols for joy.

Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

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joy vs. happiness
There is a difference.

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How to Have Joy No Matter What
Philippians 1:12-26

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Four years of miserable circumstances.

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I rejoice and I will continue to rejoice.
Philippians 1:18

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Joy component #1 – Paul had joy because he had a perspective to live from.

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Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel.

Philippians 1:12

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As a result [of Paul's imprisonment] it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.

Philippians 1:13

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An amazing ministry: Paul and the Praetorian Guard.

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Because of my chains most of the
brothers in the Lord have been
encouraged to speak the word of God
more courageously and fearlessly.

Philippians 1:14

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Courageous faith is contagious faith.

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He had come to realize that as a follower of Christ things happened to him so that things could happen through him.

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In all things God works for the good of those who love him.

Romans 8:28

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But Jesus took the cross and gave it
his meaning.

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Joy component #1 – Paul had joy because
he had a perspective to live from.

Joy component #2 – Paul had joy because
he had a priority to live by.

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But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

Philippians 1:18

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"In everything you do, put God first and He will direct you."

Proverbs 3:6

What counts most is putting God first.

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Joy component #1 – Paul had joy because he had a perspective to live from.

Joy component #2 – Paul had joy because he had a priority to live by.

Joy component #3 – Paul had joy because he had a power to live on.

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I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed.

Philippians 1:18-20

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Joy component #1 – Paul had joy because he had a perspective to live from.

Joy component #2 – Paul had joy because he had a priority to live by.

Joy component #3 – Paul had joy because he had a power to live on.

Joy component #4 – Paul had joy because he had a purpose to live for.

How would you fill in the blank?
For me to live is _____.

We all need:

- a perspective to live from.
- a priority to live by.
- a power to live on.
- a purpose to live for.

The result is JOY!

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For me to live is Christ.
Philippians 1:21

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He will bestow on them a crown of
beauty instead of ashes, the oil of
gladness instead of mourning, and a
garment of praise instead of despair.
Isaiah 61:3

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