



Finding joy in influencing others for Christ

I. Seeing the joy principle

Philippians 1

²¹ For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² But if *I am* to live *on* in the flesh, this *will mean* fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. ²³ But I am hard-pressed from both *directions*, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for *that* is very much better; ²⁴ yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sakes. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy in the faith,

Philippians 4

Therefore, my beloved brothers *and sisters*, whom I long *to see*, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

1 Thessalonians 2

¹⁹ For who *is* our hope, or joy or crown of pride, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming? Or *is it* not indeed you? ²⁰ For you are our glory and joy.

1 Thessalonians 3:7-9

⁷ Therefore, brothers and sisters, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith. ⁸ For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord. ⁹ How can we thank God enough

for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you?

3 John

⁴ I have no greater joy than to hear that my spiritual children are walking in the truth.

Why does this give us joy?

II. How can we influence others for Christ and experience the joy of the Lord

1. We experience joy in praying for others (Philippians 1:3-5)
2. We experience joy in sharing our hearts and lives with others (1 Thessalonians 2:7-8)
3. We experience joy in being an example that others follow (1 Thessalonians 1:5-6)
4. We experience joy in giving spiritual encouragement to others (1 Thessalonians 3:7-9)
5. We experience joy in mentoring others to follow Christ (2 Timothy 1:3-5)

Applications

1. Embrace your identity as a salve of Jesus Christ
2. Proactively pray for the believers God has brought into your life
3. Take your relationship to a more heart-felt and transparent level
4. Be intentional in speaking words of spiritual encouragement

5. Ask God to reveal to you people for whom you are to be a mentor and initiate a discipleship relationship
6. Become a discipler of disciple-makers