



## Finding Joy in Influencing Others for Christ

### I. Seeing the joy principle

Philippians 1

<sup>21</sup> For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. <sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> But I am hard-pressed from both *directions*, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for *that* is very much better; <sup>24</sup> yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sakes. <sup>25</sup> 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

<sup>19</sup> 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? <sup>20</sup> For you are our glory and joy.

1 Thessalonians 3:7-9

<sup>7</sup> Therefore, brothers and sisters, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith. <sup>8</sup> For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord. <sup>9</sup> 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

<sup>4</sup> 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