

JOY

FOR THE JOURNEY

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February 22, 2026

PHILIPPIANS 2:12-18

SUNDAY REFRESHER

Life is a journey - earthy, beautiful, bruising. The longer we walk it, the more we taste both opportunity and opposition. And yet, in the middle of dissension, division, disappointment, and insecurity, we have been given something radically different - peace, joy, and a living hope. The question is not whether God has promised them. The question is whether we will allow those promises to take root in us.

Paul anchors this reality in one powerful word: "Therefore." Because of who Jesus is - because He humbled Himself, because He was obedient to death, because God has exalted Him above every name - we now live differently. We work out what God has worked in. We shine in a crooked generation. We stop grumbling. We stop disputing. And we discover joy - not because the road is smooth, but because God is at work in us.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

- *What did God say to you through this passage and teaching?*
- *Did God reveal anything new to you?*
- *How is this relevant in your journey to make disciples who Love God and Love people?*

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QUESTIONS

- *Why do you think we struggle to experience peace, joy, and hope even though Scripture promises them to us?*
- *What does it practically mean to “work out your salvation with fear and trembling” without trying to earn it?*
- *In what ways might complaining, arguing, or doubting be dimming your light in the world right now?*

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

John 14:27 | 1 Peter 1:3-5 | 1 Peter 1:8 | 1 John 4:4

CONCLUSION

The two “therefores” in Philippians 2 change everything. Therefore - because Jesus humbled Himself and was exalted. Therefore - because His name is above every name. Our obedience is not pressure - it is participation. Our effort is not earning - it is responding. God is the decisive worker. He is not distant. He is active. He is inhabiting His church. He is inhabiting you. And the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit in the world.

So work it out. Try again. Fail forward. Receive grace. Shine. Hold fast to the word of life. Joy in the journey is not the absence of hardship - it is the presence of God. And because of Jesus - therefore - we never have to walk this journey alone.

Knowing that life transformation happens best through intentional, meaningful relationships, don't let this week's sermon remain as mere information. In the next few days, look for ways to teach, challenge, encourage and/or pray about what you're discovering!

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