

**SERMON SERIES:** MORE THAN HAPPY

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## Key Line

The source of our joy is our strength in the struggle. Joy is calm delight.

## Introduction

We are starting a new series called MORE THAN HAPPY. Over the next 4 weeks we are going to look at something that runs deeper than temporary happiness. While happiness is temporary, joy is a gift from God that runs deeper.

## Seek the Word

Read Philippians 4:4

- How can we ALWAYS find joy in life?

Read Philippians 1:1-12

- What happened to Paul over the course of his life while following Jesus?
- How can these events advance the Gospel?

Read Philippians 1:13-14

- Can you imagine being chained to Paul for 8 hours at a time?
- What do you suppose those guards experienced?
- What would happen if you stopped asking why me and started asking what purpose God might have for your struggle?

Read Philippians 1:18b-27

- Paul was strengthened by two things. Do you remember what they were? (your prayers & the Holy Spirit)
- This makes it clear that joy is a choice. What happened to Paul because he chose joy?
- What was Paul's expectation? (courage)

## Talk About It

- What would it mean for us to look at the struggle and say, "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain?"
- How would this change your decision-making process?

## Wrap Up

*Reminder:* "Joy is the settled assurance that God is in control of all the details of my life, the quiet confidence that ultimately everything is going to be alright, and the determined choice to praise God in every situation." - Rick Warren

*Challenge:* This week, intentionally choose joy (calm delight) even in the midst of the struggle. Let's stay focused on Jesus.