

# Rejoice in the Lord always! Meditating on Philippians

## The Joy from Gospel Generosity

Philippians 4:10-23

Faith Church of Linden

By Daniel Patz on November 23, 2025

*The following notes are a draft of my sermon. These are not my pulpit notes or a manuscript I use to preach with but something I type up before writing out my “pulpit notes”. I hope they are helpful.*

### Closing where we Begin – The Joy of Spiritual Relationships!

Chapter 1 - (2) Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (3) I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, (4) always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, (5) because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. (6) And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (7) It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. (8) For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:21-23 ESV Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. (22) All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household. (23) The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

### 1. The Reality and Richness of Spiritual Relationships

### 3. The Reasons of Spiritual Relationships

- 1) Gospel Partnership
- 2) Soul Transformation
- 3) Final Perseverance

### 4. The Root of Spiritual Relationships – Christ, His Grace, and the Spirit! – Rooted in Gospel!

## FOUR GOSPEL TRUTHS THAT SHAPE OUR PARTNERSHIP

*(Philippians 4:10–23)*

These are not only pastoral observations but **truths** God intends to anchor Faith Church—especially on a Sunday when we celebrate His provision and vote on a budget that expresses our commitment to gospel work.

## **Partnership Brings Eternal Reward.**

### **1. God Provides; We Rejoice!**

*Gospel Partnership Means We Recognize God as the Provider and Rejoice in His People's Generosity.*

*We praise God for His provision and your generosity.*

*Verses 10, 14 - I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity... Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble.*

Paul praised God for the Philippians provision for his needs in the ministry. They became a generous church and it is possible that this church was whom Paul was referring to in 2 Corinthians 8-9.

I praise God for His provision in my life.

I praise God that many of you have been very generous and sacrificial in your giving.

I hope you will be encouraged and challenged to think and give rightly.

### **2. Christ Satisfies; We Learn Contentment.**

*Gospel Partnership Reminds Us That Our Greatest Need Is God Himself and the Grace of Contentment in Him Alone.*

*Our greatest need is God and His grace of contentment in Him alone.*

*Verses 11-13 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. (12) I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every*

*circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. (13) I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*

Paul's joy wasn't rooted in money. His security didn't rise and fall with support levels. He had "learned the secret"—Christ.

This allows you to say:

- "I am deeply thankful for your provision...
  - ...but the truest anchor of my life and ministry is Christ, not a paycheck."
- And equally:
- "Your greatest need is not increased income but increased dependence on Christ who strengthens you."

This makes your gratitude clear while keeping Christ supreme.

Paul wants to make it clear that what he needs is not their help but God. He is thankful to the Philippians but he knows he is dependant on God.

What we need more than anything is not your offerings. We need a grace from God that gives us a contentment.

1 Timothy 6:6-12 Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, (7) for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. (8) But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. (9) But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. (10) For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. (11) But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. (12) Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

### **3. Giving Partners Us in the Gospel**

*Gospel Partnership Calls Us into Joyful, Biblical Giving as a Sacred Participation in God's Work.*

*Your partnership with us in the gospel through biblical giving is a special thing.*

*Verses 15-16 - And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. (16) Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again.*

People usually fail to give for these 4 reasons:

*Unable*

*Unwilling*

*Uninformed*

*Uninspired*

### **1) Biblical giving is willful and cheerful**

2 Corinthians 9:7-8 ESV (7) Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (8) And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

2 Corinthians 8:3-5 ESV (3) For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, (4) begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints-- (5) and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.

### **2) Biblical giving is regular**

1 Corinthians 16:2 ESV On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.

Proverbs 3:9-10 ESV Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; (10) then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

- Many fail to give bc they fail to make it a pattern of life
- Giving when you feel led is not the pattern we are talking about

- First fruits of the crops were to be given - not the leftovers

### **3) Biblical giving proportionate**

- The tithe was established as a commandment to God's people in the OT - 10% of everything they made - went to the spiritual leader - Levites
- This was for the poorest and the richest...
- Malachi 3:6-10 said that the failure to tithe was equivalent to robbing God.
- We have NO reason that we are to abandon this principle and give less
- Tithing is a good place to start but is often not enough – “My take on tithing in America is that it’s a middle-class way of robbing God. Tithing to the church and spending the rest on your family is not a Christian goal. It’s a diversion. The real issue is: How shall we use God’s trust fund—namely, all we have—for His glory? In a world with so much misery, what lifestyle should we call our people to live? What example are we setting?” — John Piper

### **4) Biblical giving is generous**

- Generous means - liberal in giving; openhanded
- 1 Timothy 6:18-19 They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, (19) thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

2 Corinthians 8:2-5 ESV (2) for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. (3) For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, (4) begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints-- (5) and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.

### **5) Biblical giving is sacrificial**

2 Corinthians 8:2-5 ESV (2) for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. (3) For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, (4) begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints-- (5) and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.

I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give [to others and to charity]. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. In other words, if our expenditures on comforts, luxuries, amusements, etc., is up to the standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving away too little. If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small. There ought to be things we should like to do and cannot do because our charities expenditure excludes them. -- Lewis – Mere Christianity – page 67

### **Giving Devotional and Dependently**

- Do not give so we can maintain a building
- Do not give just because you like the pastors and you want them to have an income

GIVE – because you love the GOSPEL of Jesus Christ.

When you are getting ready to give the offering – think – “God I love your Gospel”

By His grace we (the pastors and elders) are committed to leading you and serving with you in the Gospel.

We are committed to preaching it to you and to our community.

The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation.

The Gospel is the message that declares the glory of God in Jesus on the Christ.

The Gospel is the good news of salvation.

The Gospel is why we are here today and why we have a bright future.

The Gospel is our only hope.

Without the Gospel we are wasting our time.

We need to be committed to the Gospel.

I don't think it would be a good thing for the Gospel and this church for a decrease in staff hours at Grace Church.

Please partner with us in the Gospel by giving.

## **4. Partnership Brings Eternal Reward.**

*Gospel Partnership Bears Eternal Fruit, Pleases God, and Comes with His Promise of Abundant Provision.*

*The Bible says your partnership will be more than worth it.*

*(Verses 17-19) - Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. (18) I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. (19) And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*

Why will it be worth it?

*Acts 20:35 In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"*

**A. Eternal Credit**

*Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit.*

*1 Timothy 6:17-19 As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. (18) They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, (19) thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.*

**B. Pleasing God**

*I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.*

*Hebrews 13:16 Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.*

**C. God's Provision**

*And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*

*Malachi 3:10 Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.*

*2 Corinthians 9:6-11 The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. (7) Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (8) And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. (9) As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." (10) He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. (11) You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.*

## **CONCLUSION:**

Philippians 4:21-23 ESV Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. (22) All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household. (23) The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.