



Sermon Discussion Guide

September 13, 2026

Philippians 1:1-11

Summary

Big Idea: Our Confidence is Not in How Far We've Come but in God Who Began the Work in Us. From prison, Paul opens his letter with thanksgiving. Despite temporary circumstances that could cause his joy to fluctuate, he is able to rejoice. His joy comes from another source - God. Since God does not fluctuate or waver, Paul's joyful confidence perseveres. It is this confident joy that Paul desires to flavor and fuel the lives of the saints in Philippi, especially since there are several areas of turbulence they are facing that Paul will address in this letter (division, anxiety, persecution, false teachers, complacency). In such circumstances, we are tempted to lose confidence, which in turn weakens our joy, and withers our participation in the gospel (evangelism and sanctification). The corrective course of action is to root our confidence not in ourselves or our performance, but in God. We can be sure that God will bring to completion, the gospel-work that he began in the world and in us.

1. What is the difference between worldly joy and Christian joy? Is worldly joy bad - is it wrong to enjoy the world God created? How do you know which one you are experiencing?

Read Philippians 1:1-11. As you do, listen closely to identify all the evidences of God's grace (or fruits that God's grace produces)

2. What evidences of grace did you hear? List them.
 - a. Which of those are applicable to and shared by you here and now?

Jerrold concluded the message with 5 clear points of application that are worth discussing. Read them below and have each person in the group pick one that stood out to them.

5 Points of Application from the Sermon

1. Anchor your assurance in God's faithfulness, not in your progress
2. Practice gospel-shaped encouragement
3. Let hardships make you better, not bitter
4. Grow in love that is informed by Scripture, not emotions or impulse
5. Measure spiritual growth and fruit by whether God is magnified

For each one selected, discuss:

- 1) Where is this taught in the text?
- 2) What makes this hard for you?
- 3) How does the Gospel of Grace make this possible?
- 4) What would growth look like for you?
- 5) How can this group help?



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