

# Fighting for Joy Together

2020-10-25 by Ben Deaver at Tallgrass Church on Philippians 1:3-6

## Don't forget:

- Make PowerPoint
- Have Facebook Live info prepped.
- Encourage folks to sit closer.
- Make Google Drive doc w/ Philippians resources.
- Pray together at 9:30am!
- Figure out how to get 3-5 minutes alone w/ God before preaching, possibly in that storage closet.

## Joy & Rejoice

### Intro Elisha Hillegeist as an Elder Candidate

- We are excited to introduce a new Elder Candidate to you!
- At the end of September, David Renberg gave an update from our Elder Retreat and talked about how we'd like to begin considering possible new Elders.
- We are an Elder-led church that seeks input from our whole church and especially our Membership and Servant Leadership Team.
- Our process is to introduce a new Elder Candidate and then give at least two weeks for feedback before approving or not approving the candidate.
- We're excited to present Elisha Hillegeist as an Elder Candidate!
- Elisha not only does a great job serving as our Sprouts Coordinator but has taken initiative as a leader by going to the Kansas Leadership Center Your Leadership Edge when that was made available and been so helpful in many shepherding needs of our church. She's been faithfully involved in LIFE Group and is seeking to engage in discipleship and also initiating a new mom's group for growth in parenting.
- Yes, Elisha would be the first female on our Elder Team. If you'd like to hear about our journey towards being an egalitarian church as it pertains to leadership in the church there are a couple of talks I gave in our 1 Timothy sermon series that you can listen to—*Can Women Teach in the Church?* on September 9, 2018 on 1 Timothy 2:11-15 and *Women Teaching and Leading in the Bible* on September 16, 2018 on Romans 16:1-16. Feel free to ask me questions.
- Please give feedback over the next two weeks to any of our current five Elders; myself, Dave Geldart, Ron Goodman, Ricky Greeve, or David Renberg. You can also email all of us at [elders@tallgrass.church](mailto:elders@tallgrass.church).
- As you consider giving feedback you can read about how we think of Eldership at Tallgrass Church by searching for our "Elder Qualifications" on our website.
- Please take time to pray for Elisha as she's considered as an Elder Candidate and to send feedback if you'd like.
- Let's pray.

## Mingle

### Intro Trent Jones, Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club of Manhattan

- God has blessed our church during this pandemic to the point that we've been able to support an organization with a one-time \$500 gift each month since April.
- Chad Wormstadt of Working Men of Christ on September 13: <https://tallgrass.church/teachings/2020/09/13/working-men-of-christ>
- Deb Kluttz of The Homestead on August 16: <https://tallgrass.church/teachings/2020/08/16/stories-of-rescue-and-redemption-from-the-homestead>
- Terry Cole of Helping International Students and Tshego Ngwaga, Naemi Bickmeier, and Sipasi Ayodele on July 26 (go to 22:30): <https://tallgrass.church/teachings/2020/07/26/the-beautiful-vision-of-humanity>
- Faisal John of Grace Bible Church Pakistan on June 21, Father's Day: <https://tallgrass.church/news/2020/07/09/faisals-testimony-ministry>
- Barb Sanderson of Life Choice Ministries on May 10, Mother's Day (go to 42:28): <https://tallgrass.church/teachings/2020/05/10/happy-mothers-day-caring-for-the-vulnerable>
- Ron Goodman of Orphan Helpers in Central America shared on April 19 (go to 21:15): <https://tallgrass.church/teachings/2020/04/19/happy-birthday-tallgrass>
- I met Trent Jones when he shared about the Boys & Girls Club at a lunch function I attended years ago.
- Then David Renberg and I initiated with him to talk about daycare needs in our community as we were exploring multi-use building possibilities for our church.
- I've been struck by his ability as Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club both administratively and the vision he embodies for the Club as a whole and, I sense, for each individual child and staff person who walks through the doors. I get this from him because of his interactions with me personally.
- He and his wife are involved at The Well. He's graciously stepped away from their service to be with us this morning. They're also expecting their first child so be sure to tell him, "Congratulations!"
- Give it up for the Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club, Trent Jones!

### Who did any of the homework this past week? How was it?

- Does anyone want to share how any of the homework was for you? Did anyone write out the passage? Read Philippians aloud in its entirety? Practice lectio divina? Read the Acts 16 background on Philippians?
- Did you notice any themes in Philippians? Did God speak to you in any particular way as you studied Philippians?

### Superspreader! Don't use this analogy anymore!

- Who's been part of Tallgrass Church from its inception on April 8, 2018? I thank my God in all my remembrance of YOU! Thank God for YOU!
- Last week we talked about the relationship of Paul and Timothy as a discipleship relationship. We introduced Discipleship 101, our initiative to help deepen discipleship relationships within our church.
- This morning we're asking the question of "Why discipleship?"

**Philippians 1:3-6** <sup>3</sup> I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup> always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, <sup>5</sup> because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> 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.

## PRAY!

### Fighting for Joy

### Why discipleship? Because JOY!!!

What is discipleship? Discipleship is FIGHTING FOR JOY TOGETHER!

### Philippians—The Joy Letter!

Why is Philippians thought of as the joy letter?

- Noun “joy” used 5 times
- Verb form “rejoice” used 7 times
- Did Paul write this from somewhere idyllic, like a Hawaiian beach, sipping mojitos, burying his feet in the sand, while listening to the waves crashing against the shore? No, he wrote it from prison or on house arrest but definitely chained to a Roman guard 24-7 while facing possible imminent execution.
- “happiness” = “good fortune”

#### Joy vs. Happiness

- Happiness is based on happenstance, your circumstances, and is fleeting.
- Joy is a deep and abiding contentment that is beneath all circumstances.
  - This is why we need DEEP ROOTS. This is why we need a FIRM FOUNDATION. We need JOY!

“joy” 5x = *chara* (χαρά, 5479)—from *chairō* (χαίρω, 5463)—“gladness of heart”

- 1:4 *...always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy...*
- 1:25 Convinced of this (that remaining in the flesh is more necessary on your account), *I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith...*
  - Others-centered living! Paul would love to depart and be with Jesus but wants to remain to battle for the joy of the Philippian believers!
- 2:2 *...complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.*
- 2:29 *So receive him (Epaphroditus) in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men...*
- 4:1 *Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.*
- The way you get to joy is to rejoice! Joy is a state of being. Rejoice is a verb. It’s something you CHOOSE to do! You can rejoice no matter what you have going on. The more you choose to rejoice the more joy you will experience.

“rejoice” 7x = *chairō* (χαίρω, 5463)—related to *charis* (χάρις, 5485) which is “grace”

- 1:18 *What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice...*
  - Paul chooses to rejoice...despite the circumstances.
- 2:17-18 <sup>17</sup> Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, *I am glad and rejoice with you all.* <sup>18</sup> *Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.*
  - Paul chooses to rejoice...despite his circumstances and then he invites the saints to choose to rejoice with him. This is discipleship from afar.
- 2:28 I am the more eager to send him (Epaphroditus), therefore, *that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious.*
- 3:1a *Finally, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord.*
- 4:4 **Rejoice** in the Lord always; again I will say, **rejoice.**
  - Choose to rejoice...despite circumstances...even in the midst of anxiety... Let me say it again. Choose to rejoice!
- 4:10a *I rejoiced in the Lord greatly* that now at length you have revived your concern for me.

Choose to Rejoice! *Pure Desire* by Ted Roberts, p. 232

- “Who’s responsible for the joy and gratitude in my life? That’s one of the most important questions we’ll ever answer. Actually, there’s only one appropriate answer: me. I must take responsibility for my response to life.”
- “I can’t leave it to my boss, my mate, my kids, neighbors or friends (*or the outcome of this election or Covid-19, etc.*). I’m the one who’s ultimately responsible. It’s true that the people around me can deeply affect me, but the bottom line is, I determine how it all shakes out.”

Connection b/w joy & quality of relationships—Harvard Study of Adult Development (HSAD)

- TED Talk by Robert Waldinger—*What makes a good life? Lessons from the longest study on happiness*
- Longest running study on this subject ever—75 years of 750 men
- Interviewed every other year—extensive interviews; interviewed family members; medical tests
- Dr. Robert Waldinger, totally non-Christian researcher, says, “Wealth, fame, and career success do not correlate with true happiness. Good relationships keep us healthier and happier. The frequency of relational contacts. The secure attachment.”
- Harvard could’ve saved a lot of money by reading Philippians.
- Psychological research about these matters confirms what God has said all along.
- This is why discipleship, especially in the 21<sup>st</sup> century when secure relationships are so hard to come by.

## Fighting for Joy TOGETHER!

- 1:5 ...because of your **partnership** in the gospel from the first day until now.
  - *koinōnia* (κοινωνία, 2842)—a partaker; partner; companion; participation in anything; communicative or cultivating a loving fellowship
  - Let's dig into the nature of this partnership.
- 1:7 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.
  - Partakers together of grace and shared experience.
  - **Romans 12:15** Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.
- 1:27-28a <sup>27</sup> Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, *with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel*, <sup>28</sup> and not frightened in anything by your opponents.
  - *sunathleó* (συναθλέω, 4866)—to wrestle in company with; to seek jointly; labor with; strive together for
- 2:25 I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus *my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier*, and your messenger and minister to my need...

The Phalanx—Does anyone know what the Phalanx is? It's the Greek military formation where soldiers are lined up shoulder to shoulder advancing against the opposing force.

- The Armor of God in Ephesians 6
- Paul was probably chained to a Roman soldier. The Gospel has already spread throughout the Imperial Guard.
- Philippi was an old war town. A decisive battle had been fought there two decades before Philippians was written.
- From Wikipedia: The Battle of Philippi was the final battle in the Wars of the Second Triumvirate between the forces of Mark Antony and Octavian (of the Second Triumvirate) and the leaders of Julius Caesar's assassination, Brutus and Cassius in 42 BC, at Philippi in Macedonia.

### **The Christian in Complete Armor by William Gurnall, Puritan minister, 700 page treatise written in 1655**

- "In heaven we shall appear not in armour but in robes of glory; but here they (the pieces of armour specified) are to be worn night and day; we must walk, work and sleep in them, or else to stand and watch, and never relax our vigilance, for 'the saint's sleeping time is Satan's tempting time.'"
- You do well to put on the armor of God, brothers and sisters.
- You do well to put help one another put on the armor of God and keep it on, brothers and sisters.
- 4:2-3 <sup>2</sup> I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. <sup>3</sup> Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have **labored side by side** with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.
  - true companion; side by side
  - *suzugos* (σύζυγος, 4805)—yokefellow; colleague
  - 4866—See 2:27
- 4:14-15 <sup>14</sup> Yet it was kind of you to **share** my trouble. <sup>15</sup> 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.

## Back to Philippians 1:3-6—Deepening Joy by Building Confidence in the Gospel

- My story: If I had to choose a favorite verse it would be Philippians 1:6. It's the first verse I remember memorizing as a young kid. In the New International Version it goes, "...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."
- As a seven-year-old I didn't know all the ends and outs of God's good work in me and how that will be brought to completion. Three decades later, I'm still trying to wrap my mind and heart around the beauty of the Gospel.
- Justification, Sanctification, Glorification
  - Justification—Freed from the penalty of sin. God alone does this. One-time event.
  - Sanctification—Growth into Christ's character. We join God in this ongoing process.
  - Glorification—Freed from the penalty AND power of sin at the end. God alone does this. One-time event.
- The truths contained in this verse has carried me as a follower of Jesus these last 32 years! And it will continue to carry me until Jesus brings me home or comes back to bring us a new home.
- I encourage YOU to also memorize and then seek to be confident in the truth of this verse.
- This is not only about confidence in God completing His work in you and me personally but in us as a church community!

## Discipleship 101—*The Gospel-Centered Life*—Refer to handout

Who will you meet with to walk through *The Gospel-Centered Life* with?

### Homework:

1. Meet with someone or ask someone to meet to work through *The Gospel-Centered Life* together.
2. Memorize Philippians 1:6.
3. Handwrite out the upcoming passage (Philippians 1:7-11).

Tallgrass family, let's fight for joy TOGETHER!

**PRAY!**

# The Chopping Block:

## CG Flow:

- Joy (5 min.)
- Intro Elisha as an Elder candidate (5 min.)
- Rejoice (5 min.)
- Dismiss to Sprouts & Mingle (5 min.)
- Trent shares about Boys & Girls Club (5 min.)
- Preach (35 min.)
- No Longer Slaves (5 min.)
- Raise a Hallelujah (5 min.)
- REPRISE Joy (5 min.)

## Homework:

- SWORD Drill
- The Bible Project—<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Training/Post/View/231123>
- Phil Vischer—<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/KidsSeries/293649?episode=1>

## Discipleship Resources:

- *The Chopping Block #13: 13 Misconceptions about Discipleship*—  
<https://tallgrass.church/news/2019/06/20/tcb-13-13-misconceptions-about-discipleship>
- *Personal Discipleship—Practical Tips* by Gary DeLashmutt—  
<https://www.xenos.org/teachings/?teaching=2213>
- *Organic Discipleship: Mentoring Others Into Spiritual Maturity and Leadership* by Dennis McCallum and Jessica Lowery—[https://smile.amazon.com/Organic-Discipleship-Mentoring-Spiritual-Leadership/dp/0983668108/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?crd=2CW66U2J9P4U7&keywords=organic+discipleship&qid=1560185383&s=gateway&sprefix=organic+disc%2Caps%2C321&sr=8-1](https://smile.amazon.com/Organic-Discipleship-Mentoring-Spiritual-Leadership/dp/0983668108/ref=sr_1_1?crd=2CW66U2J9P4U7&keywords=organic+discipleship&qid=1560185383&s=gateway&sprefix=organic+disc%2Caps%2C321&sr=8-1)

## Intro to Philippians

- Location of Philippi
- Paul planted this church 10 years earlier
- There were frequent interactions between Paul and these folks.
- Key People:
  - Paul
  - Timothy
  - Epaphroditus
  - Imperial Guard
  - Euodia & Synteché
  - Clement
- The Philippians saints and money
  - This letter is a response, a thank you for the money gift.
  - Epaphroditus was the courier who delivered the funds.

- See 2 Corinthians 8-9 to see Paul hold up the Philippian church as a model for gracious, sacrificial generosity.
- Paul's letters
  - Prison letters—Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon
  - None of Nero's literary output remains and it appears he wrote a lot. Whereas we, along with everyone else in the world who owns a Bible, have 13 letters that Paul wrote to individuals and churches.
  - One commentator joked that we call our dogs Nero and our sons Paul.

## ***The Christian in Complete Armor* by William Gurnall, Puritan minister, 700 page treatise written in 1655**

- Subtitle—*The saints' war against the Devil, wherein a discovery is made of that grand enemy of God and his people, in his policies, power, seat of his empire, wickedness, and chief design he hath against the saints; a magazine opened, from whence the Christian is furnished with spiritual arms for the battle, helped on with his armour, and taught the use of his weapon; together with the happy issue of the whole war*
- "In heaven we shall appear not in armour but in robes of glory; but here they (the pieces of armour specified) are to be worn night and day; we must walk, work and sleep in them, or else to stand and watch, and never relax our vigilance, for 'the saint's sleeping time is Satan's tempting time.'"