

# joy / full

a study in philippians

GROUP GUIDE

## PHILIPPIANS 1:18b-26

But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. or to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

## To Live Is Christ and to Die Is Gain // November 17, 2024

1. Do you tend to be more optimistic or more cynical? Why?
2. Read Philippians 1:18-20. Paul thinks that the prayers of the Philippian church are part of the reason he will be released from prison.
  - a. When have you seen a direct connection between prayer and changed circumstances?
  - b. When you pray, how confident are you that God will answer?
3. Read Philippians 1:21-23. Paul thinks that it would be "better by far" for him to go and be with Christ. How easy it is for you to live as if this were the case?
4. Read Philippians 1:24-26. Though Paul knows it would be better for *him* to go and be with Christ, he thinks it's more important for *others* that he would stay.
  - a. To whom do you have a similar commitment? For whom would you sacrifice that they might have "progress and joy in the faith"?
  - b. What practical steps are you taking to help someone else have "progress and joy in the faith"? Or, if you can't think of any examples, what steps *can* you take in the coming weeks?

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## [LEADERS NOTES]

### RESOURCES TO HELP YOU FOLLOW JESUS

- [centralheights.ca/followjesus](https://centralheights.ca/followjesus)

### STORIES

- We love hearing how God moves in people's lives. If you or anyone in your group has a story and would be willing to share, we'd love to hear it and celebrate with you. You can share your story by emailing [stories@centralheights.ca](mailto:stories@centralheights.ca)

### MESSAGE Video and Audio can be found at:

<https://www.centralheights.ca/currentseries>