

Strength, Joy, & Peace! ...*Philippians 1:1-18*

“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.” ...Philippians 1:6 (ESV)

“God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. There is no such thing.” ...C.S. Lewis

1. Joy in Appreciating People who are a Blessing in Our Lives...

Scripture: *Philippians 1:1-5, Psalms 16:1-3*

2. Joy in Encouraging with the Truth...

Scripture: *Philippians 1:6, Romans 8:31-35, 37-39, Philippians 4:11-13*

3. Joy in Sharing Life...

Scripture: *Philippians 1:7-8, Hebrews 10:24-25*

4. Joy in Action and Prayer...

Scripture: *Philippians 1:9-11, Romans 8:31-35, 37-39*

- *Galatians 5:22-23*... The Spirit of God changes us!
- *Galatians 5:24-25*... “Keep in step with the Spirit”

5. Joy, Even in Difficult Moments... *(If there's time Tonight!)*

Scripture: *Philippians 1:12-18, John 16:33, Philippians 4:11-13 (once again!)*

Group Discussion

1. What stood out to you in tonight's message and scripture passages? ...*be descriptive!*

2. The world is very different than it was just 5-10 years ago. There are social, political, physical, emotional, economic, cultural, relational, and even spiritual challenges and concerns that weigh heavy on our minds and can even affect the way we live, possibly every day...

...Without dominating the time and attention of your Group tonight... can you briefly describe some of the concerns that weigh heavy on your heart and seem to affect you, *especially Spiritually*...

- How can we have real **JOY** in our lives, and keep from allowing these things from becoming the focus of our attention and conversations? ...both in the way we think, and practically speaking? (...take a look at **Philippians 4:11-13** for reference!)
- What **ACTIONS** can you take to eliminate having the challenges and concerns in your life, from dominating your thoughts and choices?

3. READ **Philippians 4:4-9** together... What is this telling us, and what do you learn from these verses?

- What does that look like in our own lives? How can you specifically put this into action in your daily life?

4. Is there anything from tonight's discussion that spoke to you personally? In what way(s) does it affect your life? **How will you directly and specifically apply it in your life today?**

Take a few moments to share any Prayer Requests with the men in your Group. Write down any requests and commit to pray for one another throughout the week.

(It's great to know that other guys are praying for the important things in your life...and it's great to be praying for the important things in their lives!)

How do the **5 Principles for the Christian Man**, help equip you to apply this to your life?

Discuss your answer with your group...

- Prayer (*Relationship*)
- God's Word (*Knowledge and Understanding*)
- Worship (*Adoration*)
- Fellowship (*Encouragement and Accountability*)
- Service (*Caring for Others, Action to your Belief*)