

## Community Group Discussion Questions

Moraga Valley Church | Sunday, September 1, 2024

The Joy-Filled Life: A Study in Philippians | "The Joy-Filled Letter"

### Read Philippians 1:21

1. The sermon defined joy as "the settled assurance that God is in control of all the details of my life, the quiet confidence that ultimately everything is going to be alright, and the determined choice to praise God in every situation." How does this definition differ from your previous understanding of joy? Can you share an experience where you've felt this kind of joy?
2. Paul writes, "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21). How do you interpret this statement considering your own life? What might it look like to practically live out this perspective?
3. The sermon mentioned that we often try to "figure things out" on our own instead of trusting God. Can you identify an area in your life where you're currently struggling to trust God? How might embracing the joy Paul describes change your approach to this situation?
4. Brandon said, "Joy is the by product of what is uniquely found in what God has accomplished through Jesus Christ." How does focusing on Christ's work, rather than our circumstances, lead to joy? Can you share an example from your own life?
5. Towards the end of the sermon, we're reminded that "The Lord is near" (Philippians 4:5). How does the nearness of God relate to experiencing joy? How can we cultivate an awareness of God's presence in our daily lives?