

Level 2 moves into “feelings.”

Level 1 is the most personal, intimate form of communication.

According to John Powell, “all deep and authentic friendships, and especially the union of those who are married, must be based on absolute openness and honesty.”

4. Paul expresses his joy in a prayer:

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God. Philippians 1:9-11

What have we learned from Philippians 1:1-11:

- Confidence brings joy when we fix our attention on the things for which we are thankful
- Confidence brings joy when we let God be God
- Confidence brings joy when we allow ourselves to be vulnerable and transparent with other brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox. I want to close this message today by reading you the full poem.

*“One ship drives east and another drives west
With the selfsame winds that blow.
Tis the set of the sails
And not the gales
Which tells us the way to go.*

*Like the winds of the sea are the ways of fate,
As we voyage along through life:
Tis the set of a soul
That decides its goal,
And not the calm or the strife.”*

Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Confidence in God

Philippians 1:1-11

*“One ship sails east
One ship sails west
Regardless of how the winds blow.
It is the set of the sail
And not the gale
That determines the way we go.”*

“Laughing our way through life depends on nothing external. Regardless of how severely the winds of adversity may blow, we can set our sails towards joy.”

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:1(a)

Paul calls himself and Timothy “SERVANTS.”

- ✓ Principle of living a Joy filled life: **We have to see ourselves as SERVANTS.**

Servants are:

- Bound to each other by the bands of constraining love.
- They are in such close relationship to another that only death could break the bond.
- There will is swallowed up in the sweet will of God.
- They serve Christ with reckless abandon, not regarding his or her own interests.

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons. Philippians 1:1

The New Testament definition of a Saint is ordinary people, every day, normal people like you and me.

Saints are:

- People who want to be used by God
- People who seek after God
- People who fail God from time to time.
- People who get back up and keep pressing on with God.
- A “Saint” is someone that Jesus Christ has “set apart and consecrated for the purpose of God’s service.”

- ✓ Principle of living a joy filled life is understanding who I am.
I am a Saint – who has been set apart – for God’s special purpose.

“Paul and Timothy, servants of the living Christ, to all those set apart for the purpose of serving God, who live in the city of Poplar Grove, Belvidere, Capron, Caledonia, and the surrounding area.”

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:2

- Grace is something that comes to us which we do not deserve.
- Peace is something that happens within us which is not in any way affected by our external circumstance.

“With Grace from above and peace within, how can we not rejoice.”

❖ What brought Paul so much joy.

1. He had happy memories of the Christians in Philippi.

I thank my God every time I remember (all of) you. ⁴In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

Philippians 1:3-5

Paul had:

- No regrets,
- He nursed no ill feelings,
- He struggled through no unresolved conflict.
- When he looked back over a full decade and thought of the Philippians, he laughed with joy!

- ✓ Principle of living a joy filled life is: **choosing to focus on positive memories will make life better.**

2. Paul was joyful is because he had a firm confidence in God.

For I am confident of this very thing, that he who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁷For it is only right for me to feel this way about all of you, because I have you in my heart, since both in my imprisonment and in the

defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers of grace with me. Philippians 1:6-7

- The One (God) who *started* (began) a good work in your life will *complete* (perfect) it.

It will be finished! Because Jesus will see to it - and that should give all of us joy and confidence in God.

Three main joy stealers in our lives are worry, stress, and fear.

- Worry is an inordinate anxiety about something that may happen but most often does not.
- Stress is intense strain over a situation we cannot change or control.
- Fear is a dreadful uneasiness over the presence of danger, evil, or pain.

How do we withstand the joy stealers of life?

- ✓ We stand on the Principle of living a joy filled life by: Choosing to believe that what God says he will do --- He will do in you!

For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you (me) will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:6

3. Paul was joyful is because he felt a warm affection toward his fellow believers.

For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you in my heart, since both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers of grace with me. For God is my witness, how I long for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:7-8

John Powell, “*Why Am I Afraid to Tell You Who I Am*”. 5 levels of communication.

Level 5 is the outer circle of superficiality.

Level 4 is where we report facts to each other.

Level 3 leads us into the area of ideas and judgments.