



# ALWAYS CHOOSE JOY

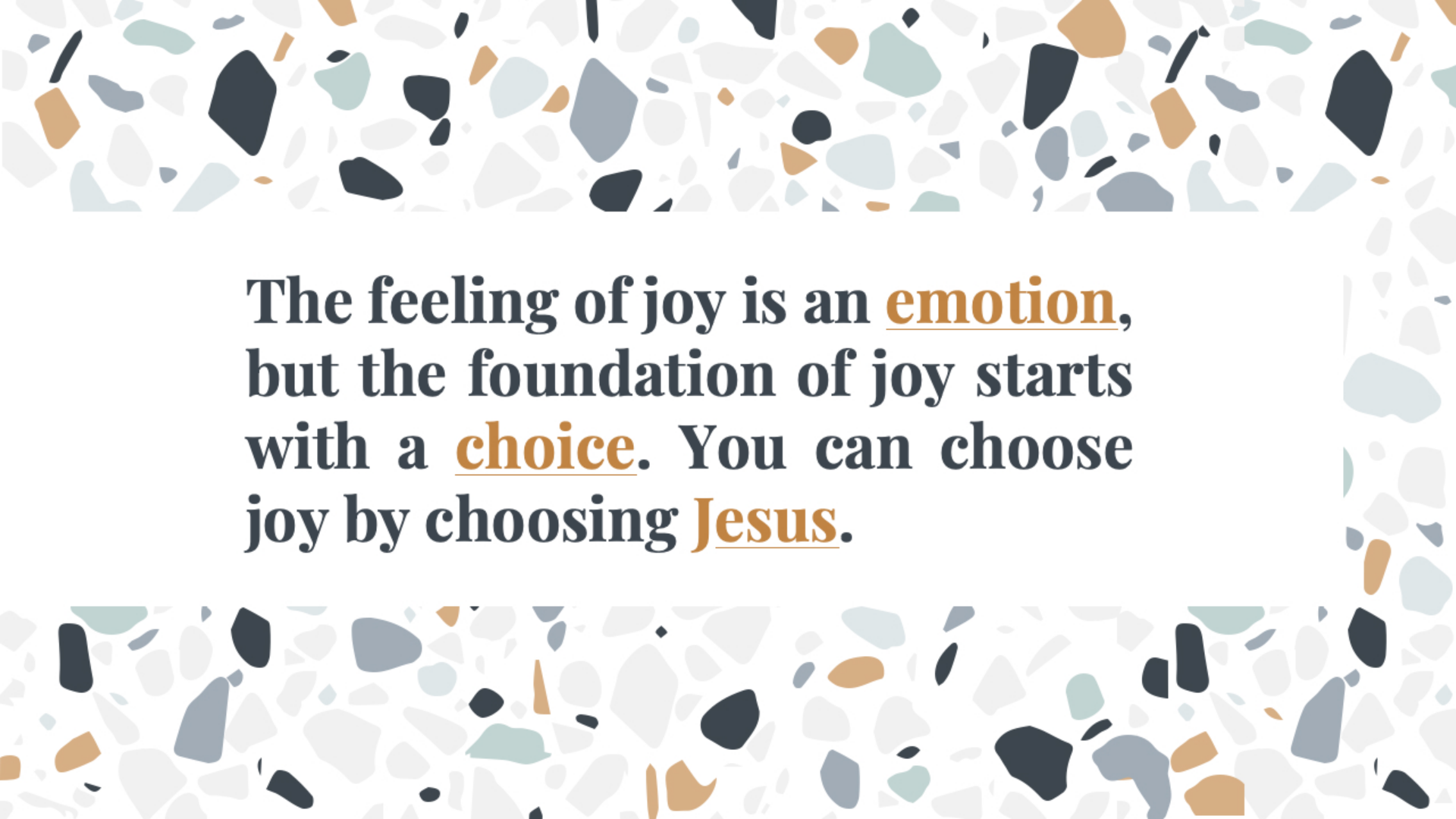
A Journey through Philippians




<sup>16</sup> Always be joyful.

**1 THESSALONIANS 5:16 NLT**






The feeling of joy is an emotion,  
but the foundation of joy starts  
with a choice. You can choose  
joy by choosing Jesus.



<sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.  
<sup>13</sup>Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies

**PHILIPPIANS 3:12-21 ESV**






ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup>Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. <sup>16</sup>Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

**PHILIPPIANS 3:12-21 ESV**






<sup>17</sup>Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup>For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. <sup>19</sup>Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds

**PHILIPPIANS 3:12-21 ESV**





set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup>But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup>who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

**PHILIPPIANS 3:12-21 ESV**





# Our Journey





## Our Journey

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**PHILIPPIANS 3:12-16 ESV**



## Our Journey

and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup>Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. <sup>16</sup>Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

**PHILIPPIANS 3:12-16 ESV**


# Paul plans out his journey




# Paul plans out his journey

v 12 Paul understands the need for the journey





**This is where child-like faith  
meets real maturity.**  
**A child can't wait to be bigger and  
always wants to be more mature.**




# Paul plans out his journey


v 12 Paul understands the need for the journey

v 13 Paul understands the pitfalls of the journey





**We often let those things which are behind distract us, whether they be good things or bad things. Looking at what is in the past often keeps us from what God has for us in the future.**



# Paul plans out his journey


v 12 Paul understands the need for the journey

v 13 Paul understands the pitfalls of the journey


v 14 Paul understands the prize of the journey







**The prize is the upward call of God. The prize is the call itself, not the benefits that come from the call or any other thing. The prize is being able to run the race at all, working with God as a partner to do the work of His kingdom.**



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# Our Traveling Companions



## **Our Traveling** Companions

<sup>17</sup>Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup>For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. <sup>19</sup>Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.


**PHILIPPIANS 3:17-19 ESV**




# Our Traveling Companions

<sup>1</sup>And you should imitate me, just  
as I imitate Christ.

**1 CORINTHIANS 11:1 NLT**



**While it is true we must all ultimately look to Jesus, every one of us should be an example of those who look to Jesus.**





**Traits of bad examples  
whose end is destruction**



# Traits of bad examples whose end is destruction

## Idolatry

“their god is  
their belly”



# Traits of bad examples whose end is destruction

## Idolatry

“their god is  
their belly”

## Misplaced Priorities

“the glory in  
their shame”





# Traits of bad examples whose end is destruction

## Idolatry

“their god is  
their belly”

## Misplaced Priorities

“the glory in  
their shame”

## Wrong focus

their “minds set  
on earthly things”



**Our final and  
ultimate Destination**



**Our final and  
ultimate Destination**

<sup>20</sup>But our citizenship is in heaven,  
and from it we await a Savior, the  
Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup>who will  
transform our lowly body to be  
like his glorious body, by the  
power that enables him even to  
subject all things to himself.

**PHILIPPIANS 3:20-21 ESV**

**Paul is saying:**

**“Just as the Roman colonists never forgot that they belong to Rome, you must never forget that you are citizens of heaven; and your conduct must match your citizenship.”**





**Jesus was not merely resuscitated from the dead in the same body. He was resurrected in a new body, patterned after the old yet equipped and fitted for heaven.**

