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## Week 2

Do you really want to experience Real Joy?

Next steps for me today...

- I want to surrender my life to Jesus.
- I will share my testimony.
- I will join a Life Group.

If we don't take steps toward what God says is important why should we think anything will change?

<sup>9</sup> I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. <sup>10</sup> For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return. <sup>11</sup> May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God. **Philippians 1:9-11 NLT**

- We are to live righteous lives.
- The good news is that true righteousness is possible for mankind, but only through the cleansing of sin by Jesus Christ and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
- We have no ability to achieve righteousness in and of ourselves. But Christians possess the righteousness of Christ, because "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God". 2 Corinthians 5:21

**REAL JOY COMES WHEN WE REALIZE THIS IS NOT OUR HOME.**

<sup>27</sup> Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing

together with one spirit and one purpose, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News. <sup>28</sup> Don't be intimidated in any way by your enemies. This will be a sign to them that they are going to be destroyed, but that you are going to be saved, even by God himself. <sup>29</sup> For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him. <sup>30</sup> We are in this struggle together. You have seen my struggle in the past, and you know that I am still in the midst of it. **Philippians 1:27-30 NLT**

- When we live as citizens of heaven we aren't intimidated by the things of this world.
- Some people can be "so heavenly minded, they're no earthly good."
- When we stand together with one spirit and one purpose there is joy and impact.

<sup>1</sup> Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? <sup>2</sup> Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. <sup>3</sup> Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. <sup>5</sup> You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. <sup>6</sup> Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. <sup>7</sup> Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, <sup>8</sup> he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. **Philippians 2:1-11 NLT**

- Real Joy comes when we love God with everything that is in us.
- Real Joy comes when we love others.
- Real Joy comes when we serve God.
- Real Joy comes when we serve others.

<sup>12</sup> Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. <sup>13</sup> For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him. <sup>14</sup> Do everything without complaining and arguing, <sup>15</sup> so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people. <sup>16</sup> Hold firmly to the word of life; then, on the day of Christ's return, I will be proud that I did not run the race in vain and that my work was not useless. <sup>17</sup> But I will rejoice even if I lose my life, pouring it out like a liquid offering to God, just like your faithful service is an offering to God. And I want all of you to share that joy. <sup>18</sup> Yes, you should rejoice, and I will share your joy. **Philippians 2:12-18 NLT**

*<sup>13</sup> For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.*

**NOW TAKE A STEP AND DO WHAT PLEASES HIM!**