

BECOMING JOYFUL

February 15, 2026

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IN THE "GROWING FORWARD" SERIES:

January 4: *Becoming Confident*

January 11: *Becoming Like Christ*

January 18: *Becoming Free*

February 1: *Becoming Focused—Part 1*

February 8: *Becoming Focused—Part 2*

February 15: *Becoming Joyful*

February 22: *Becoming Content*

**WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU MET SOMEONE WHO WAS TRULY JOYFUL?
WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF AS A JOYFUL PERSON?**

JOY IS NOT THE SAME THING AS HAPPINESS!

Philippians 4:1–9 (NLT) (1) Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stay true to the Lord. I love you and long to see you, dear friends, for you are my joy and the crown I receive for my work. (2) Now I appeal to Euodia and Syntyche. Please, because you belong to the Lord, settle your disagreement. (3) And I ask you, my true partner, to help these two women, for they worked hard with me in telling others the Good News. They worked along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are written in the Book of Life. (4) Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! (5) Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon. (6) Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. (7) Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. (8) And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. (9) Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.

1) Joy is a _____ regardless of our circumstances.

Philippians 4:4 (NLT) (4) Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice!

2) There is a direct correlation between our _____ and our ability to be joyful.

Philippians 4:4 (NLT) (4) Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice!

Philippians 4:1a (NLT) (1) Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stay true to the Lord...

John 15:9–11 (NLT) (9) "I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. (10) When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. (11) I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!"

**STRENGTHENING YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS IS ONE OF THE KEYS
TO EXPERIENCING GREATER JOY!**

3) We experience greater joy when we _____ and thanksgiving.

Philippians 4:6–7 (NLT) (6) Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. (7) Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

WORRY IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST JOY-KILLERS!

4) _____ is essential for a joyful life.

Philippians 4:8–9 (NLT) (8) And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. (9) Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.

IF YOU PASSIVELY ALLOW YOUR MIND TO ABSORB WHATEVER COMES AT YOU, YOU WILL STRUGGLE TO BE JOYFUL. IF YOU ACTIVELY CHOOSE TO FIX YOUR THOUGHTS ON WHAT GOD SAYS TO THINK ABOUT, IT WILL HELP PROTECT AND INCREASE YOUR JOY!

*For more information about what it means to begin a relationship with Jesus or what to do after making a decision to follow Him, stop at Guest Central in the lobby following the service, email us at info@otterbeinchurch.org, or call the church office at 717.762.7147 to set up an appointment. You may also learn more about what it means to follow Jesus and/or request materials and find additional information to help you on your spiritual journey by clicking "**Next Steps > Jesus**" on*