



**PHILIPPIANS:
ENJOYING LIFE**
An interactive Bible study for
individuals, families,
and LIFE Groups

~ Week Eleven ~
"Fighting for Joy"
Philippians 3:12-16

SERMON NOTES

Record your insights and observations from this week's sermon:

Thanks for using UPC's weekly Bible study guide. We pray that this tool will help you RECALL what you heard in the Sunday sermon, REFLECT on the Scriptures more fully, and RESPOND with love to God, church, and community. If you miss a sermon, or would like to review it, visit our website: www.upc-orlando.com.

WARM UP

What is one thing you really want to do between now and the end of this calendar year?

RECALL THE SUNDAY SERMON

Read Philippians 3:12-16

a) What was the most meaningful statement for you in this week's sermon?

b) When Paul says in Philippians 3:12, "Not that I have already obtained all this," to what is he referring?

c) When Paul says in that same verse (3:12) that he has not "already been made perfect," is he implying that a person can reach a state of perfection in this life? If not, what is he talking about?

d) Why must you fight for joy?

e) Did the sermon help you identify something in your life that is hurting you in your fight for joy?

REFLECT A BIT FURTHER

- a) This week's passage of Scripture emphasizes the important role believers play in their own spiritual progress. Summarize your understanding of what Paul says we must do in order to move forward in the Christian life.

- b) What do you see as "the prize" for which you are striving day to day? (3:14)

- c) What does this verse mean to you: "Only let us live up to what we have already attained"? (3:16) At first glance, that verse seems contrary to what Paul has just said about going further and reaching higher. Can you clear up that apparent contradiction?

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

- a) Paul reminds us that the daily fight for joy requires forgetting the past and setting goals for the future. Spend a few moments thinking first about your past. What significant experiences, failures, and situations do you need to put behind you in order to more fully know Christ as your joy?

- b) "Straining toward what is ahead" (3:13) requires having goals and knowing how to reach them. Look back at your answer to this week's "Warm Up" question. What action steps do you need to take in order to make that wish a reality?

PRAY FOR UPC

Please pray this week for:

- **Vacation Bible School** – VBS is this week at UPC! Praise for God's provision of the many volunteers needed to run VBS, and join us in praying for:
 - Kim Stevens, Kelsey Silberg, and all those giving leadership to the various areas of VBS
 - Our VBS teachers and assistants as they lead their groups
 - All the children and families that will be hearing the gospel for the first time, that they will understand and respond to the good news of Jesus
 - Good weather, health, and safety during the week ahead
 - Good attitudes and a joyful spirit among all the children and workers
- The **General Assembly** of our denomination, the Presbyterian Church in America. General Assembly is the annual meeting of representatives from all PCA churches throughout the world. This year's meeting is June 20-23 in Atlanta. Pray that God will continue to lead the PCA to make good decisions and impact the world for Christ.
- Pray that this summer will be a period of enriching spiritual **growth** for UPC in our worship, community, and service.