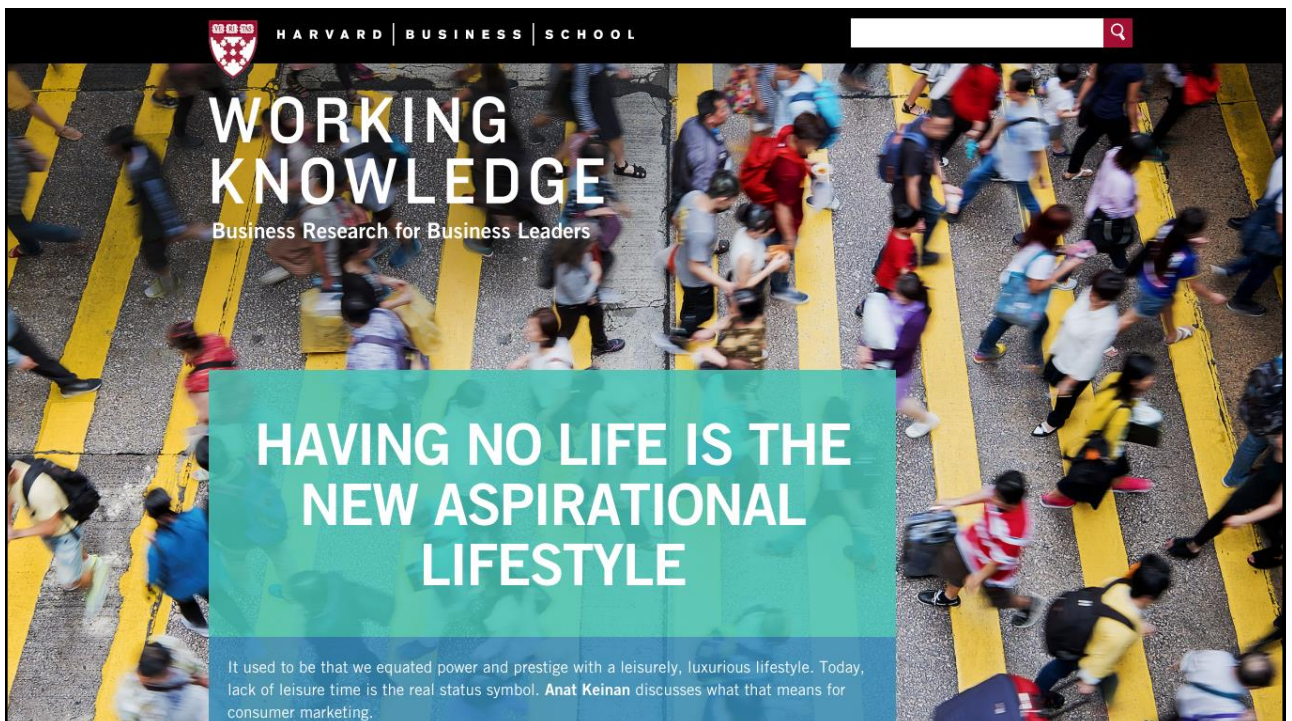



PURSUE JOY

An Overview on
Book of Philippians



 HARVARD | BUSINESS | SCHOOL

**WORKING
KNOWLEDGE**
Business Research for Business Leaders

**HAVING NO LIFE IS THE
NEW ASPIRATIONAL
LIFESTYLE**

It used to be that we equated power and prestige with a leisurely, luxurious lifestyle. Today, lack of leisure time is the real status symbol. **Anat Keinan** discusses what that means for consumer marketing.

Joel 2:21 (NCV)

... be happy and full of joy,
because the Lord has done a wonderful thing.



John 15:11 (NIV)

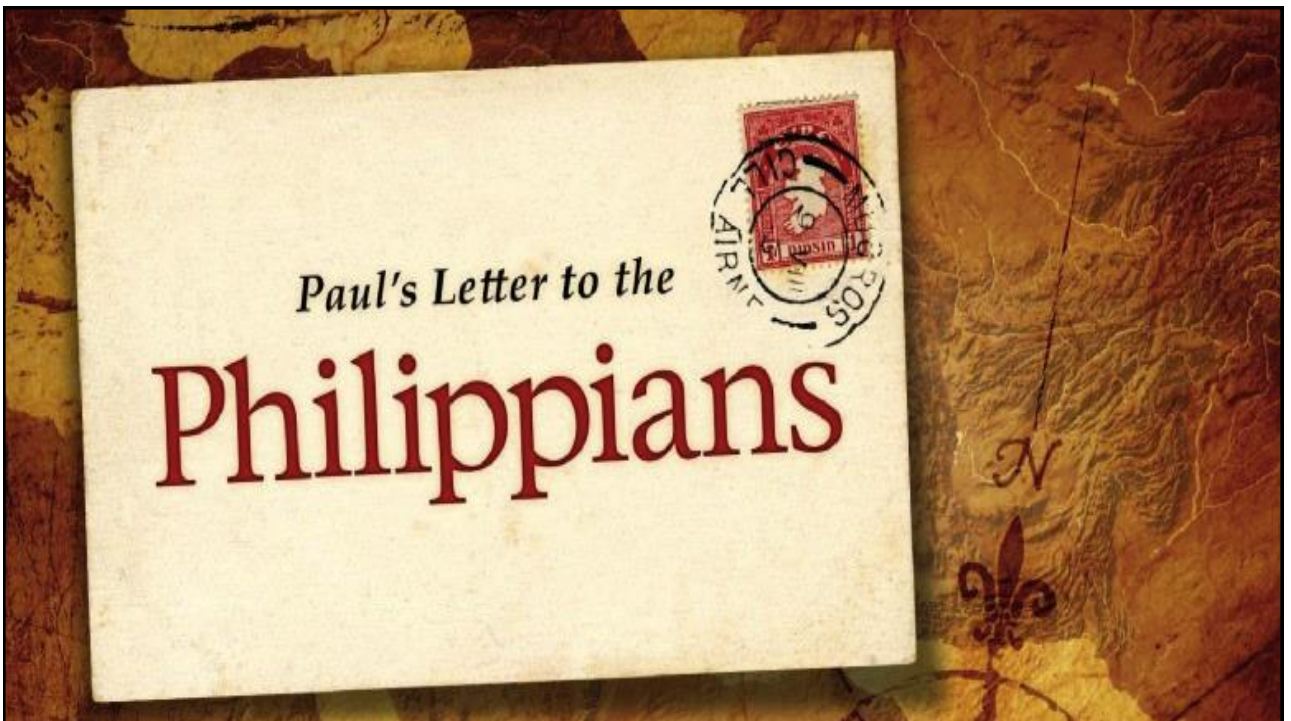
“These things I have spoken to you that MY JOY may be in you
and that your joy may be full.”





Joy is the serious business of Heaven.

C.S. Lewis



2 Corinthians 11:23-27 (NIV)

23 ... I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again.

24 Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. **25** Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, **26** I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers.

27 I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked.



Read Philippians 1 & 2



Who are the Philippians?



Where is the Philippi ?

Acts 16:6-12 (Macedonia Call)

6 Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. **7** When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. **8** So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. **9** During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” **10** After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. **11** From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day we went on to Neapolis. **12** From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days.





The early converts by Paul and team ..

1. Lydia (16:13-15) - a businesswoman who opened her home to Paul and his co-workers.
2. A fortune telling slave girl - the slave girl with the evil spirit met Paul and proclaimed: "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved".
3. Philippian jailer (16:22-34) - who was converted by Paul after an earthquake broke open the prison (after a praise and worship session).



So the Church in Philippi had witnessed first hand...


1. Paul and Silas arrested, accused, beaten and flogged.
2. Paul and Silas being thrown into the prison.
3. Paul and Silas' praise and worship session in prison.

**The church saw the joy Paul and his team had in ministry
in spite of hardships**



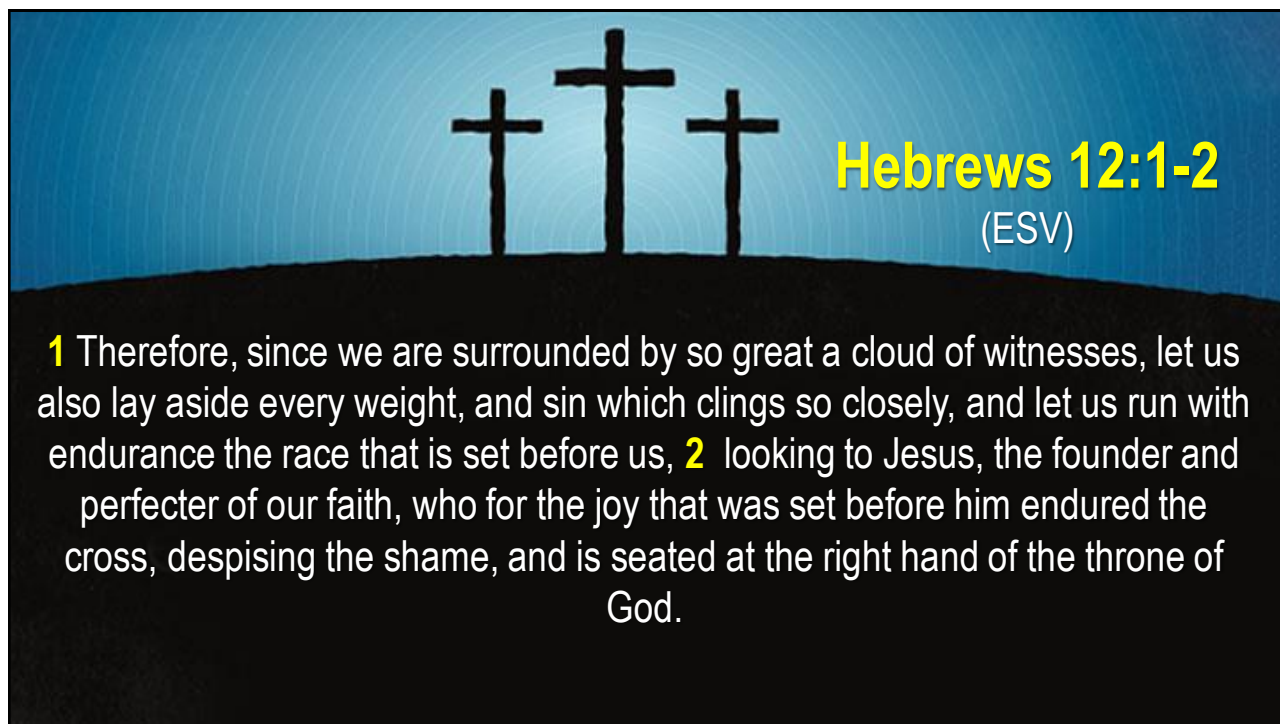
So when Paul write this letter...

1. Paul revealed his human sensitivity and tenderness, his enthusiasm for Christ as the key to life and death (1:21).
2. His deep love for the believers in Philippi (1:7-8).
3. He shared his hopes and convictions, anxieties and fears (1:6, 23).
4. He revealed his total confidence in Christ that constitutes faith (3:8–10).
5. He wrote his rejoicing of faith, based on true understanding of Christ's unique role in the salvation of all who profess His Lordship (2:11; 3:8–12, 14, 20–21).



Philippians 2:5-11
(NIV)

5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, **6** who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. **8** And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. **9** Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, **10** so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.



Hebrews 12:1-2

(ESV)

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **2** looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.



Paul quoted these sayings...

“He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus” (Philippians 1:6),

and **“I can do all things through Him who strengthens me”** (Philippians 4:13) .

So in this letter, we also see...

6. Book of PHILIPPIANS is also the sharing of Paul's emphasis on Christian joy.

At least **19 times** in these **4 chapters**, Paul mentions **joy, rejoicing**, or **gladness**.



The secret is found in another word that is often repeated in this book.

- The word **MIND** is used 10 times
- The word **THINK** is used 5 times.
- Paul also uses the word **REMEMBER**.
- Put these words together and we have 16 references to the “**MIND**”
- In other words, the secret of Christian joy is found in the way **the believer thinks** -- his or her attitude.



Paul can say ...

“To live is Christ and to die is gain”

(Philippians 1:21)

MYTHS of JOY

1. **True Joy is dependent on my personal situation.**

“We have no control over the weather or over the traffic on the expressway or over the things other people say and do. The person whose happiness depends on ideal circumstances is going to be miserable much of the time.”

- Warren W. Wiersbe, Be Joyful -



MYTHS of JOY

- Paul's joy is completely independent of his own situation.

3 *I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.*

Philippians 1:3-5

MYTHS of JOY

- 2.** In order to find Joy, I must **ONLY** look out for my own interests.

“It is one of the paradoxes of the Christian life that the more we give, the more we receive; the more we sacrifice, the more God blesses.”

- Warren W. Wiersbe, Be Joyful -

MYTHS of JOY

- Paul modeled that by put others before himself.

3 *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.*

4 *Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

Philippians 2:3-4

MYTHS of JOY

- Paul cited examples of Timothy and Epaphroditus.

20 *I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare.*

21 *For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.*

Philippians 2:20-21



“Perhaps the deepest Christian fellowship and joy we can experience in this life is at the throne of grace, praying with and for one another.”

- Warren W. Wiersbe, Be Joyful -

MYTHS of JOY

3. Joy is an emotion / feeling that I have no control over.

Yes, and I will rejoice ...

Philippians 1:18b



MYTHS of JOY

4. My lack of Joy affects only me.

*If you have no joy,
there's a leak in
your Christianity
somewhere.*

- Billy Sunday -

MYTHS of JOY

- Paul challenge the Philippians to shine as lights in the world

14 *Do all things without grumbling or disputing, **15** that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, **16** holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.*

Philippians 2:14-16

MYTHS of JOY

“It is worth remembering that the world around us knows only the gospel that it sees in our lives. You are writing a gospel, a chapter each day, by the deeds that you do and the words that you say. Men read what you write, whether faithful or true: Just what is the gospel According to you?”

- SOURCE UNKNOWN -

MYTHS of JOY

5. Joy is incompatible with sorrow.

Joy is not necessarily the absence of suffering, it is the presence of God.

- Sam Storms -

MYTHS of JOY

- Paul chose to rejoice instead of sorrow

3 *We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited.*

4 *Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: **9** known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; **10** sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.*

2 Corinthians 6:6-10 (NIV)



The opposite of joy is not sorrow or suffering or hardship.

It is despair in life.

It is despair in sadness, suffering and hardship.



Hope of our JOY



And I am sure of this,
that he who began a good
work in you will bring it to
completion at the day of
Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:6

Interview with
Brenda Tan



Boy with autism found after three-hour search

Mother had let 12-year-old son out of her sight for just a few seconds; he was found an hour's bus ride away

FIND CONTACT PARTICULARS

It's important for the public to help: When they come across these people who often cannot answer questions well, find contact particulars they (children with autism) may have with them and contact the caregivers.



MS BRENDA TAN, mother of Calder, a 12-year-old boy with autism.

Priscilla Goy

Ms Brenda Tan let her son out of her sight – and in a few seconds he was nowhere to be found near their Hougang home.

It took a nail-biting three hours or so before she received a call and learnt the boy, who has autism, had been found – at Changi Airport.

Last Friday, Ms Tan was about to leave her home at 7.30am with her son Calder Kam, 12, to wait for the school bus to take him to St Andrew's Autism School.

He stepped out of their flat, but she went to get a book for him to read in case the bus was late. When she returned, he was not there.

She went to the void deck, then checked each of the 18 floors in her block. She contacted a woman on the school bus, but learnt he had not boarded it.

She left her contact with a fruit stall vendor, a porridge stall owner and a neighbour. She also related her situation through a Facebook post which was shared more than 1,000 times. Her husband lodged a police report.

Ms Tan, a 42-year-old writer, told The Straits Times yesterday: "My son was lost twice before. Once, he wandered off when I was buying groceries at Hougang Green mall. Another time, he ran down the stairs and across the corridor to another part of the block."

Each time, she had prayed, and "somehow walked towards the right direction until I saw him".

But the latest incident was different. "This is the first time he took



Ms Tan had gone to get a book for her son Calder, who has autism, but could not find him when she returned, sparking a frantic search. PHOTO: COURTESY OF BRENDA TAN

public transport to somewhere far that we couldn't find him or ourselves," said Ms Tan, who also has a nine-year-old daughter.

Ms Tan believes Calder walked a nearby bus stop, then took service 27. The ride to the airport took about an hour, so he could have been there for at least two hours before auxiliary police found him in the arrival area at Terminal One, she said. They found Ms Tan's name card – which has the line "This belongs to my son Calder who has autism" written on the back – in his bag and called her at around 11am.

"The name card saves the day," she wrote later, in a blog post.

But she is considering getting a tracking device, after some parents of special needs children suggest she do so. Such devices can be attached to an object which is located via a mobile app.

Ms Tan said it is not unusual for children with autism to get lost.

"Many cannot express themselves... so they just walk and wait while caregivers scout for them."

"It's important for the public to help: When they come across the people who often cannot answer questions well, find contact particulars they (children with autism) may have with them and contact the caregivers."

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We are not beggars on the one hand or spiritual customers on the other; we are God's children, and we just stay before Him with our broken treasures or our pain and watch Him mend or heal in such a way that we understand Him better.

- Oswald Chambers -