

From This Day Forward

MOVING AHEAD WITH FAITH, HOPE, & LOVE

13 ...But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

~ **Philippians 3:13–14 (ESV)**

OCTOBER 13:

*When Life Isn't
Going Your Way*



A SCRIPTURE FOR TODAY:

Philippians 4:4

4 Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, rejoice. (ESV)



A MAINLINE FOR TODAY:

*Joy can begin before
the answer comes because
God is good before
anything changes.*

A THOUGHT FOR TODAY:

Have you ever caught yourself saying, "I'll feel better when this is over?? When the test result comes back. When the conflict gets resolved. When the bills are paid. When the decision is made. When the right person comes along. When life finally feels normal again. We often put joy on hold until circumstances cooperate. Paul doesn't. He writes, "Rejoice in the Lord always." And remember where Paul is when he writes it. He isn't sitting on a beach with everything going his way. He is a prisoner. That means Paul isn't talking about pretending everything is wonderful. He's talking about deciding what gets to determine your joy.

Your circumstances can change any day before noon. One phone call can rearrange your day. One person's comment can change your mood. One unexpected problem can demand your attention. If your joy depends on everything going right, joy will always feel fleeting. Paul locates joy somewhere more dependable. "In the Lord."

God's goodness hasn't changed because your plans did. Jesus hasn't stopped loving you because today became difficult. Grace didn't leave you because the answer hasn't arrived. That means you can experience real joy while something is still unresolved. You can say, "This is hard, and God is still good." You can say, "I wish this were different, and I'm still thankful." You can say, "I don't have the answer yet, but I know I'm not facing this alone."

That kind of joy isn't superficial. It's strong. Churches need that kind of joy too. It's easy for a congregation to spend so much time discussing what needs fixing that it forgets what deserves celebrating. Kingswood has people who pray. People who serve. People who care when someone is hurting. Children and families come through the preschool. Worship takes place and inspires us. The Bible is faithfully taught. People give generously. Those aren't reasons to become satisfied with where we are. They're reasons to thank God while we keep moving forward. Gratitude and vision belong together.

From this day forward, don't postpone joy until every problem has been solved. Notice what God is doing now. Thank Him now. Rejoice now.

Joy can begin before the answer comes because God is good before anything changes.

AN ACTION FOR TODAY:

**Find the Good That
Is Already Here**

Before today ends, name three specific things for which you're grateful right now... this day, not someday. Tell God exactly why each one means something to you.



A PRAYER FOR TODAY:

Loving God, teach me to find my joy in You instead of waiting for every circumstance to improve. Open my eyes to the goodness already present in my life. Fill Kingswood Church with gratitude that strengthens our faith and helps us recognize what You are doing among us now. In Jesus' name, Amen.

CHOOSE
JOY

TRUST
GOD'S
GOODNESS

FIND
GRATITUDE

KEEP
LOOKING
FOR HIS WORK

REJOICE
NOW

KEEP
MOVING
FORWARD