***Joy rooted in Intentional Awareness***

**Speaker**: John J Roberts

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**Text**: Acts 16:25 – 34; Philippians 1:12-14

**Introduction**

“The ultimate freedom that we have as human beings is the power to select what we will allow or require our minds to dwell upon.”

-Dallas Willard

**God meets and blesses us where we are.**

Acts 16:16-34

Philippians 1:12-14

“God has yet to bless anyone except where they actually are, and if we faithlessly discard situation after situation, moment after moment, as not being ‘RIGHT’, we will simply have no place to receive his kingdom into our life.”

-Dallas Willard

Philippians 4:10-13

**Perspective dramatically impacts outlook.**

But some of it also has to do with the questions that we’re asking in the midst of our circumstances.

“The best training is to learn to accept everything as it comes, as from Him whom our soul loves. The tests are always unexpected things, not great things that can be written up, but the common little rubs of life, silly little nothings, things you are ashamed of minding one scrap.”

-Amy Carmichael, *A Very Present Help*

Romans 8:28-30…

**Choosing our perspective is part of the way we choose joy and bring light!**

What can you do to choose joy in 2022?

* We might as well start with Paul and Silas here…
	+ They are praying… giving their situation over to God… Phil. 4:4-7
	+ Being purposeful with gratitude in thanksgiving… Phil 4:6
	+ They are singing hymns… worship… gratitude… truth…
	+ They are building one another up!
		- Hebrews 10:22-25
		- I Thess 5:11

We could go on… but the list will get too long… Last week I said that our joy in 2022 will be rooted in…

* Where you focus your mind.
* How you start and finish your day.
* What you are reading in scripture.
* What you are reading outside of scripture.
* Who you spend time with.
* How you manage your screen time.

We choose joyfulness by cultivating an awareness on the presence of God…

* Prayer – personal and corporate
* Being grateful or thankful – it’s important to articulate it
* Worship – personal and corporate
* Building each other up!

**Conclusion**

Phil 2:14-18

What happened in the culture when they were joyful!

**Questions for Reflection**

* What will your prayer habits be in 2022
* What will your thankfulness habits be in 2022
* What will your worship habits be in 2022?
* How will you be built up, and how will you build up others in 2022?