



ALWAYS CHOOSE JOY

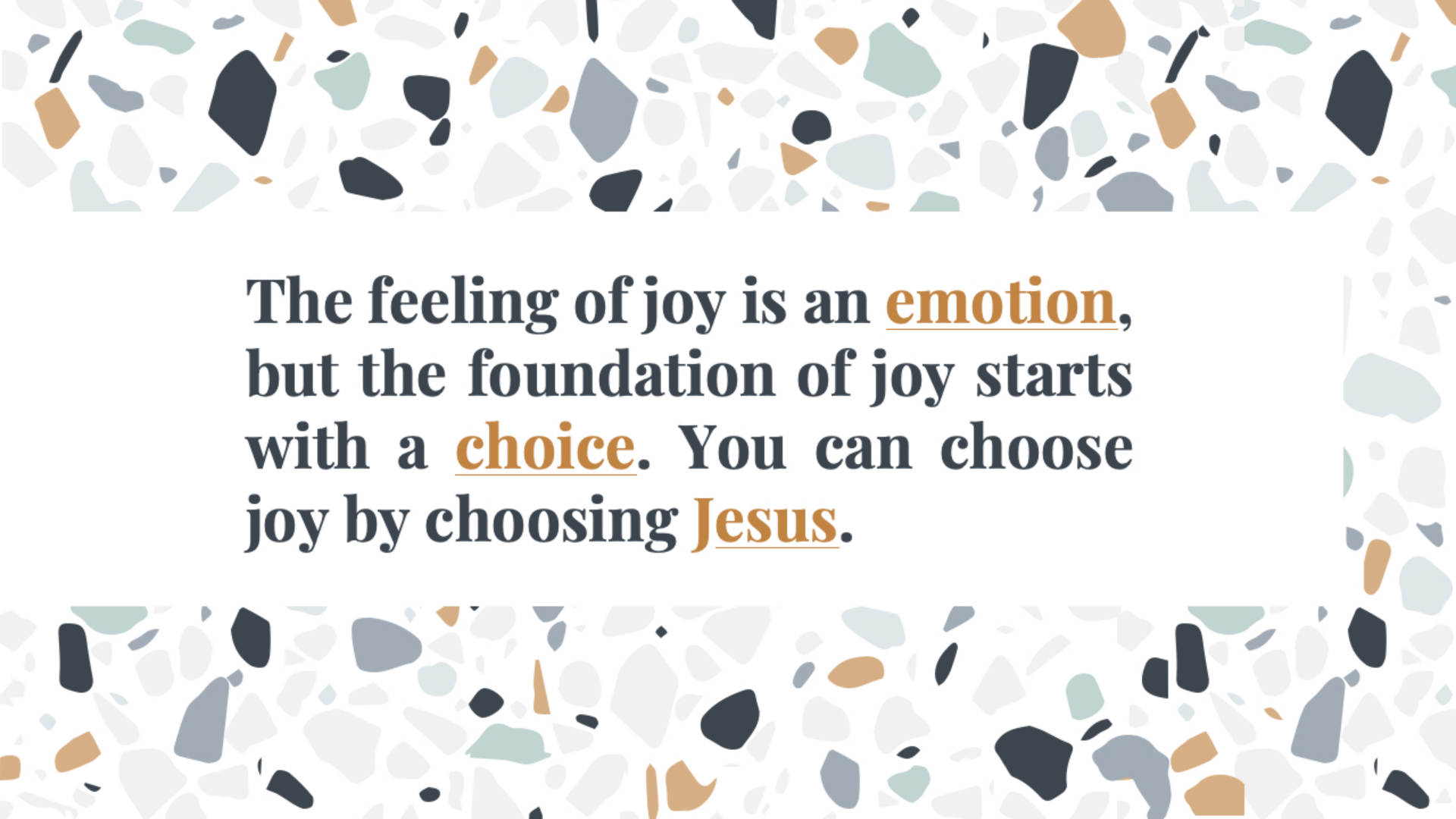
A Journey through Philippians




¹⁶ Always be joyful.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16 NLT



A decorative border with a pattern of irregular, colorful speckles in shades of teal, orange, and dark blue, set against a light grey background. The speckles are scattered across the top and bottom edges of the page.

The feeling of joy is an emotion,
but the foundation of joy starts
with a choice. You can choose
joy by choosing Jesus.




¹Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.

²Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. ³For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in

PHILIPPIANS 3:1-11 ESV






the flesh—⁴though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to

PHILIPPIANS 3:1-11 ESV

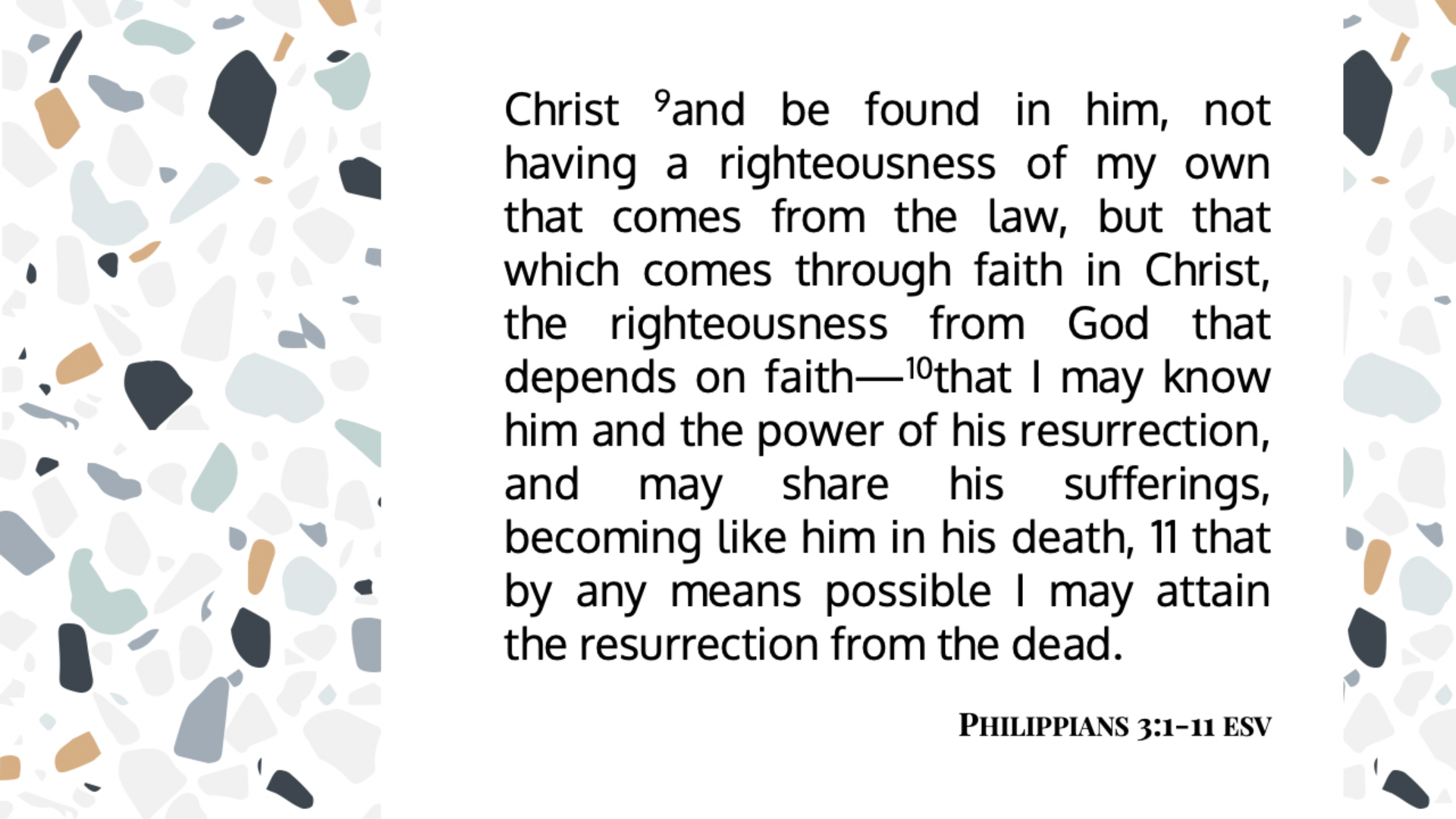




righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain

PHILIPPIANS 3:1-11 ESV





Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—¹⁰that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

PHILIPPIANS 3:1-11 ESV



**How Paul
learned to count.**





**Paul counts four things in
his possessions by birth**



Paul counts four things in his possessions by birth

01.

Circumcised on the
8TH day

A part of the tribe
of Benjamin

03.

02.

Was a part of the
people of Israel

A Hebrews of
Hebrews

04.

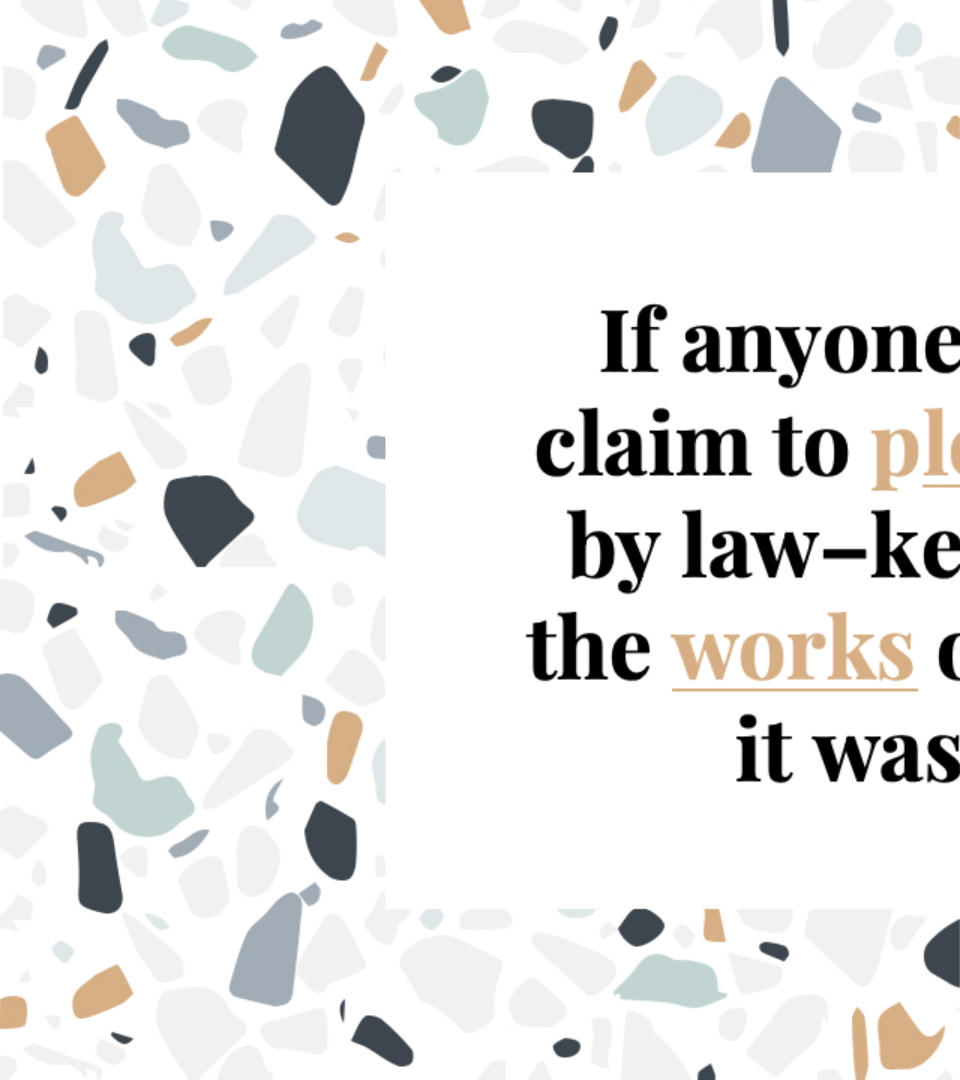
**Paul counts three things in his
possessions by achievement**



Paul counts three things in his possessions by achievement

- 01.** Concerning the law, he was a Pharisee
- 02.** Concerning zeal, he persecuted the church
- 03.** Concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless





**If anyone could lay
claim to pleasing God
by law-keeping and
the works of the flesh,
it was Paul.**




Paul's spiritual arithmetic




Paul's spiritual arithmetic

⁷But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.


PHILIPPIANS 3:7-8 ESV



They were counted loss not so much because they were harmful to Paul, but because these things were ways in which Paul sought to please God in the energies of the flesh.




This first counting was at his conversion; the second — some 30 years later — was in his Roman prison. After all he had experienced, he still counted it worthy to give everything up for the sake of following Jesus.




⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—

PHILIPPIANS 3:9 ESV





Because Paul was in Him, he could renounce his own righteousness and live by the righteousness which is from God by faith. The foundation for his spiritual life was in what Jesus had done for him and not in what he had done, was doing, or would do for Jesus in the future.





**Adding up the joy
of knowing Jesus**



How can we say we know someone?

We can say that we know someone because we:



How can we say we know someone?

We can say that we know someone because we:

- recognize them



How can we say we know someone?

We can say that we know someone because we:

- recognize them
- because we are acquainted with what they do



How can we say we know someone?

We can say that we know someone because we:

- recognize them
- because we are acquainted with what they do
- we actually converse with them



How can we say we know someone?

We can say that we know someone because we:


- recognize them
- because we are acquainted with what they do
- we actually converse with them
- spend time in their house and with their family




How can we say we know someone?


We can say that we know someone because we:

- recognize them
- because we are acquainted with what they do
- we actually converse with them
- spend time in their house and with their family
- have committed our life to them and live with them every day, sharing every circumstance as in a marriage.



Yet beyond all this, there is a way of knowing Jesus that includes all of these yet goes beyond them. When Paul says that I may know Him he wants to know Him in everything, on every level, and in every aspect.





¹⁰that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

PHILIPPIANS 3:10-11 ESV





**Knowing Jesus
was Personal
“that I”**



**Knowing Jesus
was Personal
“that I”**


**Knowing Jesus
was Powerful
“the power of His
resurrection”**



**Knowing Jesus
was Personal
“that I”**

**Knowing Jesus
was Powerful
“the power of His
resurrection”**

**Knowing Jesus
was Painful
“share in His
sufferings”**



²⁹For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him.

PHILIPPIANS 1:29 NLT





**Knowing Jesus
was Personal
“that I”**

**Knowing Jesus
was Powerful
“the power of His
resurrection”**

**Knowing Jesus
was Painful
“share in His
sufferings”**

**Knowing Jesus
was Practical
“becoming like
Him in His death”**



The goal of knowing Jesus was worth any means to Paul. The suffering and loss was worth it, considering the greatness of the goal of resurrection from the dead.





**What have you achieved that
you need to count as loss
compared to knowing Jesus?**