

# WORTH

## *Celebrating*

### Worth Celebrating // Part 1

#### Introduction:

This week Chance begins a new series called '**Worth Celebrating**' with the message for **Week 1**. We need to be better at celebrating specifically what God has done in our lives.

How do you respond to circumstances in your life? What drives your mood and your reactions to things that happen during your days? Do you get hung up on all the bad things that happen in your life?

#### Questions:

1. Do you know that the early followers of Jesus had it very rough and difficult after Jesus had risen? Given that they were mocked, ridiculed, persecuted and imprisoned you may have expected their outlook to be miserable, how could they be joyful and celebrating?
2. In your life what things do you struggle with, what causes you frustration or leaves you feeling like your life isn't what you wanted? Do you spend time mourning and lamenting how your life is going? How would you contrast your life with those early followers of Jesus? Do you complain and sulk rather than celebrate?
3. Do you think about what Paul's life was like after his conversion? Why would he encourage the Philippians to stay true to the Lord? Given what the early Christians were experiencing, what things could be causing them to lose their

way? Are you staying true to the Lord through the trials of your life? Do you know that even in your mistakes and trials you are loved? **Philippians 4:1**

4. Why would disagreements, feuds and dissension be part of the followers of Jesus losing their way? How could putting the other above yourself and loving as the Lord help to settle disagreements that will occur? **Philippians 4:2-3**
5. How can you 'always be full of joy'? Does it seem impossible for you to be joyful when things aren't going well in your life? Since your circumstances will ebb and flow through your life, where can you look for joy? Where are you trying to find happiness and joy? How can demonstrating joy, in every season, provide a testimony that is not normal in this world? **Philippians 4:4-5**
6. Can worry and getting bogged down in the grind of life suck the joy right out of you? How can telling God what you need and thanking Him for all He has done in prayer align and focus your mind on what God has called you to do and to be? Can that bring you joy no matter what you may be facing? **Philippians 4:6-7**
7. How can Paul be confident of the results of fixing your thoughts on what is true, honorable, right, pure, lovely and admirable? What are some things that are excellent and worthy of praise? What can you put into practice knowing that the God of peace will be with you? Don't you have something worth celebrating? **Philippians 4:8-9**

**Key takeaway: Look at things that are WORTHY of praise/celebration - then God's peace will fill you as you won't be FULL of yourself and the problems, but will be full of HIS ways! Can you look to find one thing worth celebrating this week that you can thank God for?**

**Summary:**

- Early followers of Jesus had things tough, but they were joyful and celebrating
- In our lives we are often mournful and lamenting, why? What causes this?
- After Paul's conversion his life was anything but easy
- Putting others above self, love as the Lord does
- Rejoice, and always be joyful because the Lord is coming again...

- Don't worry about anything, pray about everything
- Fix your thoughts on what is true... think about things that are excellent