

**Book of the Bible: Philippians – “Service with a Smile”**  
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**Background:**

Philippi was a city named after Alexander the Great's father. The church there were supporters of Paul's ministry. Philippians is one of the four "prison epistles" because they are written from prison. It is likely Paul is imprisoned in Rome when he wrote Philippians.

**Key Verse:**

*"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus, who being in the very nature God did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant...he humbled himself and became obedient to earth – even death on a cross." Philippians 2:5-8*

The attitude of a Christian has several core components:

**1. Suffering is Welcome**

*"I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing his suffering." Philippians 3:10*

*"For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." Philippians 1:21*

**2. Joyful, Even in Suffering.**

*Rejoice in the Lord always, I will say it again: Rejoice!*" Philippians 3:1

Jesus *"who for the joy set before him, endured the cross."* Heb. 12:2

The words "Rejoice," "joy," and "glad" are mentioned 16 times – Remember Paul is in prison and the Philippians were suffering persecution at the time."

**3. Confidence**

*"I can do all things through him who gives me strength." 4:13*

*"My God will meet your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19*

**4. Peace**

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God, and the peace of God, which transcends all understand, will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7*

**Contentment:**

*I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether in plenty or in want." Phil. 4:11-12*

Jesus displayed all these attitudes perfectly. Paul also exhibited them in a profound way because he had died to self and surrendered his life completely to Jesus.

**These attitudes are developed:**

- + through regular contact with the Word of God
- + through mentorship
- + through suffering
- + through growing in understanding God's love
- + through significant experiences of Jesus