Joy is the Destination
The purpose of it all...

Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

- Westminster Catechism
Χαίρω (Chairo)

• to rejoice, be glad
• to rejoice exceedingly
• to be well, thrive
• in salutations, hail!
• at the beginning of letters: to give one greeting, salute
Joy in Philippians

The Apostle Paul mentions joy 11 times in 4 chapters in his letter to the Philippians.

“Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord.” 3:1

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.” 4:4
Grief is a means to an end...

Grief and Lament are the appropriate responses to sin, death, pain, chaos, disease, brokenness, and painfully unanswered questions. Love sits at the center of all things. When love is rejected, missed, broken, the appropriate response is grief.
Joy is the end

Joy is the destination. Joy is the end of all things. When God remakes all things, finally conforming all of creation into the Image of the Son, all will be made right, and all will be experienced through the lens of joy.
Revelation 21

“1Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man.”
Revelation 21

“He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”
Our Strength

“The joy of the Lord is your strength.”

Nehemiah 8:10
Jesus, for the joy set before Him, endured the cross, joined us in our grief, sympathized with us in every way, and is now restoring and reconciling all things back to the Father.
1 Peter 5:10-11

10 And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. 11 To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.
Where does your eternal strength come from?

How might the Spirit of God be inviting you to “rejoice in the Lord always”? 