

“Rejoice in the Lord Always”

Philippians 4:4-9



Paul Lists His Sufferings for Us to Ponder in 2 Corinthians 11:25-30

“Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one, thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness,

“...in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Besides those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is offended and I burn not? If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern my infirmities.”

How Could Paul “Rejoice In the Lord Always” In Spite Of His Circumstances?

Paul's Perspective Came From David

"Oh, give thanks unto the Lord for He is good!

For His mercy endureth forever." Psalms 136:1

Paul says: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say rejoice."

Philippians 4:4

Notice that neither passage asks us how we feel

What we should do, Paul says, is REJOICE and then let our feelings catch up with our obedience

My mother used to say, *"Son, you don't have to like what I say, you have to DO what I say. You can like it later!"*

Our rejoicing is not necessarily based on the perks of life!

It's Always! (not whether we make it through this Pandemic)

Look At What Jesus Says

“These things I have spoken to you that my joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.” John 15:11

The joy that Jesus gives is different from the joy the world experiences

Worldly joy is about *“getting what I want”*—about things and experiences (like this time of year)

Paul says we must learn to be content; Philippians 4:11;
Hebrews 13:5

But the joy that Christ gives us, is our relationship with Him, which should not be dependent on the “externals”

Sure, we thank God for His provisions in our lives, but our relationship with Him should mean so much more

Children of God Have to Make Choices in Life From a Spiritual Perspective

“By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.”
Heb. 11:24-26

We need to focus our eyes more on that reward

Being thought of as a Christian was of more importance to Paul than his wealth or status; Phil 3:5-7

Life’s trials will seem so small when we see Christ

“I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.”
Romans 8:18

Three Reasons to Rejoice

#1 God is Providing for Your Daily Needs

*“Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name. Praise the Lord my soul, and forget not all His benefits.”
Psalms 103:1-2*

We pray, *“Give us this day our daily bread,”* and He answers *this prayer every day (it’s not if we eat, but what)!*

We tend to forget, or take for granted, the good things that He does for us (feeling taken for granted is not a good emotion)

Ask a COVID patient what’s the most important gift they could receive, and they will say OXYGEN! (something we take for granted) 800,000 have died due to a lack of oxygen

The lungs process the oxygen to the bloodstream and the heart pumps the oxygen rich blood to the body

Look at Psalms 103:3

“Praise the Lord.....who forgives all of your sins and heals all your diseases.”

Aren't you glad that the blood of Jesus Christ isn't just for being born again?

Did anyone here in the listening audience have to confess a few sins this week, like me?

Did anyone wonder what it cost God for that forgiveness to be available to you today? 1John 1:7-9

Some of us are physically “on the mend,” right now because He continues to supply us with: tests to diagnose our conditions, surgeries, chemotherapies, antibiotics, antifungals—and with insurance coverage to help cover the expenses of managing diseases that affect our bodies

#2 Rejoice Because You Are Privileged to Identify With Christ In Persecution

“Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.”
John 15:20

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. REJOICE and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” Matthew 5:11-12

Jesus says that you won't be the first disciple recognized for your moral behavior

You won't be the first disciple disrespected because of your Christian stance (labeled, joked about, ridiculed, ostracized)

Rejoice because someone saw some “Jesus” in you

Remember That God Works On Our Character Through Our Experiences

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, when you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” James 1:2-4

God is teaching DEPENDENCE in this Pandemic

You won't make it through alone (John 15:5)

God is teaching PATIENCE in this Pandemic

You won't make the Pandemic, “hurry up and finish!”

God is teaching HUMILITY in this Pandemic

Pride has to be removed! (you must do what is required no matter your status is in life)

**#3 Rejoice Because
Jesus Is Coming Back**

**God is not nervous
about anything that
happens in this world**

**He sees the end from
the beginning**

**Nuclear stockpiles don't
get Him excited**

**Corona Virus statistics
don't alter His Message**

**“Nightly News” doesn't
make God Nervous**



1 Corinthians 15:19

“If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.”

Paul says that if we live a life of Christian service and there is no reward, then why live the life?

But He Goes On To Say In Verse 20:

“But now is Christ risen from the dead, and we become the firstfruits of them that slept.”

We Look Expectantly for Jesus' Return

Titus 2:11-13

“Looking for that blessed hope, and glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ

Who gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”

Titus 2:13



The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38