

Finding Joy

A study of Paul's Letter to the Philippians

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9- Finding Joy in Thanksgiving ...Philippians 4:1-7

Php 4:1-7 Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved. 2 I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord. 3 And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life. 4 Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. 5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. 6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

There are few things that makes someone happier than someone who comes to them and thanks them. To be appreciated is a universal trait of mankind. Would you not agree we all want to be wanted and needed.

Would you not agree that another thing that makes joy more abundant in our lives is when we live life with a sense of thankfulness and not one of constant dissatisfaction.

I- Joy Of Relationships:

How long has it been since you thanked God for a person that just seemed to come across your mind seemingly from nowhere.

Notice how Paul referred to the believers in Philippi. John said in *3Jn 1:4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.*

Php 4:1 Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved... a term of endearment if there every was one.

...and longed for... Paul was longing to be with them in person.

my joy and crown... He had told them before that he had hopes in them that his work has not been in vain. *Php 2:16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may*

rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

He here refers to them as his glory and crown, or as *Vincent's Word Studies* says, "The Philippians converts are his chaplet of victory." This refers to the crown of garland given to victors. Then he exhorts, *...so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.*

Paul was joyful over the converts he had this moved his heart to thanksgiving and then more joy.

II- Encouragement for Joy in Unity:

Paul next addresses two women in the church by name. Euodias and Syntyche. Paul named names of those who were causing disunity and sucking the joy out of the church. *Php 4:2 I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord.*

I remind us that the first convert on the continent of Europe was a woman named Lydia of Philippi. Paul speaks here in a very personal way and used the word beseech to both of these women who apparently were at odds with each other.

He next enlists the help of another mutual friend. *Php 4:3 And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women...*

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Now notice what he says about these two and why he wants them to have unity in purpose. *...which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life.* These women has been workers with Paul and others in the fields of harvest. Paul wanted them to settle their difference so they could again be assets in the gospel.

One of the saddest things in the heart of a church leader is to find that some in the churches they have pastored have had a falling out. It is important that while we may not always agree that we not be disagreeable. The world is watching.

III- Rejoice, Rejoice, And Rejoice:

There is a line in a song that says, "While the ages roll I'll keep on praising Him."

John in the book of the Revelation saw a scene in heaven where worship is going on. *Rev 4:8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.*

We had better get practiced up here because we will praise Him and rejoice in Him for all of eternity. Paul says it in *Php 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.*

Isa 61:10 says, *I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.*

Did you notice it also said "Always?" Perhaps the reason we fail to always rejoice is that we have our desire on the world and not on God. I can't speak for you but if I search my heart I think this is what I will find. When we lose contentment we lose joy. Paul stated in *1Ti 6:8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.* (Also see *Phil 4:11*) We will address this more in an upcoming session.

Php 4:5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Moderation is rendered in the NASB "gentle spirit." And then the great motivator is that Christ's return was imminent. If it was imminent then how much more now.

IV- Pray with Thanksgiving:

1Th 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. In everything give thanks.

Php 4: 6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. Careful here is understood as anxious. Christ said in *Matthew 6:27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? The Message* says, "Has anyone by fussing in front of the mirror ever gotten taller by so much as an inch?"

When we are thankful over our relationships, settle our difference for the gospel, rejoice over everything, and pray with thanksgiving and a grateful heart then joy is sure to encamp in our deepest recesses of life. If we do this Paul gives us a blessing in *Php 4: 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

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