

Phil. 4

In the book of Philippians there are 2 dominate words used.

The words are Joy and Mind.

Joy/rejoicing and mind/think are referred to over 25 times in 4 chapters.

Obviously those two work together.

I must admit that today's sermon is a very enjoyable one for me.

I have entitled todays message, "Happy in the Lord"

Phil. 4:4

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word.

Phil.4:4-5

Let us pray

You may be seated.

Happy in the Lord

Phil. 4:4

1.We are commanded by God to REJOICE.

This is a command.

Somehow we miss this point.

We are commanded to do many things in the Bible.

In 3:1, There we were told to rejoice in the Lord.

Twice repeated in verse 4

This is the true spirit of Christians.

Believers in Christ should be easily identified. They are Joyful!!

Therefore, Genuine JOY /happiness is spiritual.

1 Thessalonians commands us in 5:16 Rejoice evermore.

Joy is to be our motto and theme in life.

We must obey God and Rejoice, be glad.

He hath made me glad He hath made me glad I will rejoice for He hath made me glad

2. Rejoicing has to do with relationship –

Rejoice in the Lord.

This is not the worlds happiness.

The worlds Happiness has to do with happenstance.

Circumstances and Situations determine our feelings of exuberance or sadness.

That is the joy of the world.

Our Joy is different than the joy of this world.

Our Joy is found in **Galatians 5:22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

The Spirit of God in a person is manifested in these 9 characteristics.

We have received this fruit at the moment of our salvation when we received the Spirit of God.

God's joy in us is evidence of God's Spirit in us.

It is evidence of salvation and of yielding to the Spirit of God in my life.

Can Christians be Gloomy?

WE should be known for our gladness.

Gladness in our spirit.

So Gloomy has got to go.

Dispirited,

disquieted

Psalms 42:5 Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and *why* art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him *for* the help of his countenance.

What did the Bible prescribe for gloomy people?

Hope thou in God.

Trust in God!

Downcast spirit – reminds me of the Donkey on Winnie the pooh.

What is his name?

Eeyore - doom and gloom

Sour dispositions have to move over.

Rejoicing has to do with relationship –

Jesus said in **John 15:11** These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and *that* your joy might be full.

Joy is ours because of our relationship with the Lord.

3.Nothing is to be allowed to divert us from Rejoicing.

We are to rejoice in the Lord ***always***;

At all times!

1 Thessalonians 5:16 Rejoice evermore.

Forever.

Nothing and no one is to keep us from being happy in the Lord.

always--even amidst the afflictions

Paul wrote this letter from jail and he is facing death.

One of the happiest little books in the Bible from a jail cell.

This is not new to Paul.

When he was in Philippi they threw him in jail and beat the living daylights out of him in Acts 16 and at midnight...

Paul was praying and singing praises

The Philippians were under duress and they were being terrorized by their adversaries in([Php 1:28-30](#)).

Paul says to REJOICE>

2 Corinthians 6:10 As sorrowful, (this is what the world would say about me) , yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

God's joy is there in pain, darkness and hard times. NO matter the circumstances.

WE must learn to rejoice always.

I got a call yesterday with some bad news.

I told the young man to Rejoice, God has a better plan.

Let us see how God will work this out.

The word "always" is emphatic.

Whatever is happening, REJOICE>

If that was not enough, God reemphasizes to us. God repeats it.

And again I say, Rejoice.

And what we should say is Yes God.

Nothing should divert us from rejoicing.

Deuteronomy 28:47 Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all *things*;

God said I am going to help you change your mind.

God turned them over to their enemies.

WE can learn to rejoice.

Psalms 100:2 Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

Ephesians 5:19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

Psalms 32:11 Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye *that are* upright in heart.

Psalms 118:24 This *is* the day *which* the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

So how is our spirit today.

Do we have the Joy of the Lord?

Do we have a joyful spirit?

We are not merely to believe in the Lord and to trust in the Lord, we are also to rejoice in the Lord.

The Christian should always be a Happy person.

If all the sources of Joy dry up, we are still to Rejoice in the Lord.

Cheerfulness is to be our attitude. ALWAYS

and gladness our facial expression. ALWAYS

Nothing should hinder our joy.

Do we know any cheerful believers?

4. We should not allow anything or anyone to steal our joy from us.

The robbers of joy are on the loose. Plenty of Joy Stealers

But honestly no one can steal our joy but we can allow it to be taken from us.

Phil. Chapter 1 - We can have Joy in spite of Circumstances.

Philippians 1:20-21 According to my earnest expectation and *my* hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but *that* with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether *it be* by life, or by death. For to me to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain.

The single mind - focus

Phil. Chapter 2 – We can have Joy in spite of People.

Philippians 2:3 *Let* nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

The submissive mind - others not myself

Phil. Chapter 3 – We can have Joy in spite of things.

Philippians 3:18-19 (For many walk (live), of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end *is* destruction, whose God *is their* belly, and *whose* glory *is* in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

The Spiritual mind – emphasis on Spiritual and not this world

Phil. Chapter 4 – We can have Joy in spite of worry.

Philippians 4:6-7 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God,

which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

The secure mind - no worries, pray to God and Think on the right things 4:8

Isaiah 61:10 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.

We are to do this always... and we are to be continually cheerful.

Christian joy is joy in the Lord.

Let us stand for closing invitation