

Our Song

Sunday, January 1st 2017

Philippians 4:4

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.”

Introduction

“Knowledge of God is the key for a lifestyle of rejoicing!”

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” AW Tozer

I. The Command

“Rejoice...”

Rejoice – *chairō* – calling for a lifestyle of joy that emanates from an active choice of our will regardless of whether confronted with joyful or adverse circumstances and/or people.

“...in the Lord”

In the Lord is the governing factor in the exhortation. It is the Philippians' faith *in the Lord* which makes rejoicing in the throes of opposition a glorious possibility.

The phrase "in the Lord" has been used by in his exhortations to exhorted to "stand firm" in the Lord, to be of "one mind" in the Lord; and here to "rejoice" in the Lord.

If we would concentrate on rejoicing in Christ so much of life would fall into place. We would be worshippers instead of worriers.

“always...”

Even in the midst of suffering and afflictions you are going through, I want you to rejoice always. Philippians 1:28-30 - Read

The Apostle Paul opens with a command for the Philippians to rejoice in the Lord always. Throughout the letter Paul is encouraging the people to excel in joy and rejoicing. (Philippians 3:1)

"I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels." Isaiah 61:10

"again, I say rejoice."

again--as he had already said, "Rejoice" Joy is the predominant feature of the Epistle.

Rejoice is repeated again because Spirit enabled **joy** is such a vitally important factor in believers' spiritual stability. Again this is a command calling for a lifestyle of joy.

If believers are to represent heaven to earth, then joy should be one of our trademarks, for in Christ's presence is fullness of joy. We obtain (and maintain) this joy by rejoicing in the right object. We rejoice not in our **situation** but in our **Savior**, not in **circumstances**, but in **Christ**.

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