



SERIES: Philippians (May / June) “Finding Joy in the Journey”

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Scripture: Philippians 4:4

NC0181

TITLE: The Source of Unending Joy

Truth trumps feelings. That’s something my mother often reminds me of. In other words, feelings come and go. They are real. They are telling us something. But at the end of the day, we, as the people of God, are to be driven by truth, not our emotions.

This is the opposite of the world today. Today, the culture says, if you feel like a dog, identify as a dog. If you feel sad, do anything you want to make you happy. If you feel angry, take it out wherever and on whomever you desire. That’s what the world prescribes, but not God. God has a better plan. Trust Him. When we do, we can experience unending joy.

This is what Paul had to say about joy in Philippians 4:4 (NLT).

“Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice!”

Some people think joy is an emotion. But joy is not a feeling. It’s a settled confidence in God. It’s a belief that God is in control. No matter what happens, God has got it. He’s going to work it out for our good and His glory. When we really trust God, joy flows. It’s grounded in truth, and not our feelings or our circumstances.

Paul says, **“rejoice.”** This means we are called to be in a continual and habitual state of rejoicing in all circumstances. But this kind of unending joy is found in God alone. That’s why Paul said, **“rejoice in the Lord.”** Not in man; not in the circumstances; not your checking account nor job title. It’s in God alone.

You’ve heard me say this, but it’s worth saying again. If you want to see what a person really believes, look at how they react to the events of their lives. It’s in those caught-off-guard moments that we display our true hope and faith.

A.W. Tozer said, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” (A. W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy* (New York, 1961), page 9) Knowing God is the source of true joy. Being in an intimate relationship with God is the secret to unending joy.

Paul said, “nothing can separate us from the love of God.” (Romans 8:31-39) No divorce, diagnosis, financial crisis, family rejection, pandemic, political disruption, or anything else changes our relationship with God. That is the reason to rejoice.

So here's my challenge for you today: Rejoice in the Lord. Where is it that you've taken your eyes off of God and focused on the situation? Turn back to God. Where is it that you've forgotten God's goodness to His people – to you? Remember His goodness; there, you will find your joy. Where have you put your trust in things other than God? Take it back and give it to God.

God will never leave you nor forsake you. Paul said, "To live is Christ and to die is gain." (Phil. 1:21) That is the joy-filled focus. So let's get our eyes fixed on God and then rejoice, rejoice, and rejoice.

Our dependence upon God will allow us with joy to win the day.