

1 Thes 5:16-18 - 16 Rejoice always; 17 pray without ceasing; 18 in everything give thanks...

Two important emphases concerning JOY.

I. THE CLEAR PRIORITY OF JOY

16 Rejoice always...

Deut 12:18 - ... you shall rejoice before the LORD your God in all your undertakings.

Psa 2:11 - Worship the LORD with reverence and rejoice with trembling.

Psa 32:11 - Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous ones; and shout for joy...

Psa 100:2 - Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before Him with joyful singing.

Phil 4:4 - Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

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16 Rejoice always...

1 Thes 3:4 - ...when we were with you, we kept telling you in advance that we were going to suffer affliction; and so it came to pass, as you know.

1 Thes 1:6 - You ... received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit,

2 Cor 11:24–28 - 24 Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. 26 I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren; 27 I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. 28 Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure on me of concern for all the churches.

Col 1:24 - Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake...

2 Cor 6:10 - as sorrowful yet always rejoicing...

Acts 5:41 - ...they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name.

1 Pet 1:6 - In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,

1 Pet 4:13 - but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing...

Two important emphases concerning JOY.

I. THE CLEAR PRIORITY OF JOY

16 Rejoice always...

Two important emphases concerning JOY.

I. THE CLEAR PRIORITY OF JOY

II. THE CONTINUAL PRACTICE OF JOY

James 1:2 - Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials...

TEN KEYS TO HABITUAL JOY...

1. WE MUST EMBRACE THE GOSPEL

1 Pet 1:8 - ...though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible...

1. WE MUST EMBRACE THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:10–11 – 10... the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; 11 for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Acts 16:34 – (The Philippian jailor) rejoiced greatly, having believed in God...

Phil 1:18 - ... in every way ... Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice,

2. WE MUST BE PEOPLE OF PRAYER

Psa 116:1 - I love the LORD, because He hears My voice and my supplications.

Phil 4:6–7 - 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus

2. WE MUST BE PEOPLE OF PRAYER

Gal 5:22 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness...

Rom 15:13 - Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

3. WE MUST LEARN GOD'S ATTRIBUTES

*Psa 16:8–9 - 8 I have set the LORD continually before me... 9
Therefore my heart is glad...*

Isa 61:10 - I will rejoice greatly in the LORD...

Neh 8:10 - ... the joy of the LORD is your strength.

4. WE MUST BE COMMITTED TO THE WORD

Psa 119:14 - I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, as much as in all riches.

Psa 119:16 - I shall delight in Your statutes;

Psa 119:103 - How sweet are Your words to my taste! Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

Psa 19:10 - They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.

5. WE MUST TRUST IN GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

Gen 50:20 - ... you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result...

Psa 139:2–5 - 2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. 3 You scrutinize my path and my lying down, and are intimately acquainted with all my ways. 4 Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O LORD, You know it all. 5 You have enclosed me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me.

Rom 8:28 - And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

5. WE MUST TRUST IN GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

Hab 3:17–18 - 17 Though the fig tree should not blossom And there be no fruit on the vines, Though the yield of the olive should fail And the fields produce no food, Though the flock should be cut off from the fold And there be no cattle in the stalls, 18 Yet I will exult in the LORD, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.

Psa 118:24 - This is the day which the LORD has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it

6. WE MUST DEVELOP CONTENTMENT

Phil 4:11-13 - 11 ... I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. 12 I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. 13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

7. WE MUST CONTROL EXPECTATIONS

James 1:14–15 – 14...each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. 15 Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin...

8. WE MUST GIVE UP RIGHTS

1 Cor 6:20 - For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

9. WE MUST LOVE GOD'S WORK IN OTHERS

*1 Thes 3:6–9 - 6 ... Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us good news of your faith and love... 7 for this reason, brethren, in all our distress and affliction we were **comforted** about you through your faith; 8 for now we **really live**, if you stand firm in the Lord. 9 For what thanks can we render to God for you in return for all the **joy** with which we **rejoice** before our God on your account...*

*2 Tim 1:4 - longing to see you ... so that I may be filled with **joy**.*

10. WE MUST LONG FOR HEAVEN

Matt 5:12 - Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great...

Luke 10:20 - ... rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven.

10. WE MUST THINK ABOUT HEAVEN

Rom 8:18 - For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

2 Cor 4:16–18 - 16 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. 17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, 18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Martin Lloyd Jones: *Is Christian truth something you like to have, and to know that it is there if you are taken desperately ill, or some loved one is taken ill, or if you are suddenly confronted by the loss of your income, or when some disaster takes place, or when you are on your death bed?*

***Matt 6:33–34** - 33 But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. 34 So do not worry about tomorrow...*

***Rom 14:17** - for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

