

"The Joy of Knowing Jesus"  
Philippians 4:1-4 (Oct. 9, 2011)

*The Joy of the Lord comes when we...*

1. See people come to Christ.

*"My beloved brethren, whom I long to see, my joy and crown..." (4:1)*

*"...whose names are in the book of life." (4:3b)*

2. See people become strong in Christ.

*"...stand firm in the Lord, my beloved." (4:1b)*

3. See people live in harmony in Christ.

*"I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord." (4:2)*

4. See people serve Christ.

*"Indeed true companion, I ask you also to help these women, who have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel, together with Clement also and the rest of my fellow workers..." (4:3)*

5. See people rejoice in Christ.

*"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!" (4:4)*

**Application:**

1. If you want to increase your "joy quotient," based on this passage, what do you need to focus on this week?
2. What tends to rob you of your joy? This week, pray for a new perspective of His joy to be at work in your life.

Bible Study Questions/ Discussion  
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1. This past week, what brought you "joy?" What robbed you of "joy?" When you hear the command "Rejoice in the Lord always" what do you feel? (Unrealistic? Impossible? Try harder?)
2. When you become a Christian what does the Lord promise concerning our circumstances? (John 16:33; Acts 14:22; 2 Tim. 3:12)
3. This week we will study how this kind of joy can be possible. (Read Phil. 4:1-4) First Paul shared that his joy came from people who came to Christ. (4:1) (Also I Thess. 2:19) Share some examples of someone you know or someone at the recent baptism service that really blessed you when you saw them come to Christ.
4. Discuss how special it is to have your name written in the Lamb's Book of Life. (4:3) (Also Rev. 13:8; 21:27) What response should there be with this realization? (Lk. 10:20; 16:10)
5. The second way joy comes into our lives is seeing people stand strong in Christ. (Phil. 4:1) Victories against Satan and sin should be celebrated! What specific victories have you experienced recently? (I Cor. 10:13) Review the different ways we can make sure we will "stand firm in the Lord. (Also Phil. 1:27)
  - Col. 2:7 –
  - Heb. 12:3 –
  - I John 2:19 –
  - Eph. 6:10 –
6. Read the story of Nehemiah and the people finding the joy of the Lord. What did they need to remember that would bring them joy? (Neh. 8:1-10)
7. When Christians live in harmony there is great joy. (Psalm 133:1) (Phil. 4:2) Discuss the application of Spurgeon's quote –"In essentials –unity...In non-essentials –liberty...In all things –charity." Review the Biblical principles of unity. (Phil. 2:5; Eph. 4:3, 15; I Peter 3:8)
8. Serving Christ brings great joy as well. In Phil. 4:3 what blessed Paul concerning this church? Share a time of ministry that brought joy to your heart.
9. Read Phil. 4:4. If rejoicing is to be continuous how does joy come when bad things happen? What kind of problems did Paul face? (I Cor. 4:9-13) When Paul says to "rejoice in the Lord" what does that mean? (John 15:10-11; Isa. 61:10; James 1:2-5; Rom. 8:28)