

“Joy...No Matter How You Feel”

pt. 26 — Philippians 4:4-6

To Live is Christ

INTRODUCTION

- joy...an essential of the Christian life
- joy...a conscious, willful choice

“Joy is not the absence of suffering, but the presence of God.”
— Elizabeth Elliot

1. The conscious choice to trust

- defining “joy in the Lord” (4:4a)
 - + over God’s goodness
Ex. 18:7-9; 2 Chr. 7:10
 - + over God’s salvation
1 Sam. 2:1; Ps. 13:4-5
 - + over sharing in the sufferings of Christ
Acts 5:40-41

joy = a settled confidence in a sovereign Christ.

- worry robs us of joy (4:6a)

- Paul’s exhortation repeated (4:4b)
1 Sam. 21:10-22:1; Ps. 57:1-3, 7; Phil. 3:1

2. Why I must consciously choose to trust

- *gentle spirit* = a gracious, patient forbearance

+ by it, I glorify God
+ by it, I prove the object of my trust

- the Lord is near

+ near in time?
Jms. 5:8; Phil. 1:23

+ near in space?
Ps. 73:28

Jesus is as near as He was then...
yet nearer now than He’s ever been.

