

Speaker: Associate Pastor Steven Kum
Title: Marked by Joy!
Text: Philippians 4:4

(Philippians 4:4)

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

Introduction

1. God is a joyous God
 - a. The Father rejoices over His people (Zephaniah 3:17, Psalm 147:11)

(Zephaniah 3:17)

*The LORD your God is with you,
he is mighty to save.
He will take great delight in you,
he will quiet you with his love,
he will rejoice over you with singing."*

(Psalm 147:11)

*the LORD delights in those who fear him,
who put their hope in his unfailing love.*

- b. The Son rejoices over His purpose (Luke 10:21, John 15:9, Hebrews 12:2)

(Luke 10:21)

At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.

(John 15:11)

I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

(Hebrews 12:2)

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

- c. The Holy Spirit is the source of joy (Romans 14:17, Galatians 5:22, 1 Thessalonians 1:6)

(Romans 14:17)

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,

(Galatians 5:22)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

(1 Thessalonians 1:6)

You became imitators of us and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.

2. God's people should be characterized by joy (Isaiah 61:3, 2 Corinthians 8:1, Philippians 1:25-26)

(Isaiah 61:3)

*and provide for those who grieve in Zion—
to bestow on them a crown of beauty
instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness
instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise
instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the LORD
for the display of his splendor.*

(2 Corinthians 8:1-2)

And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches.

2 Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.

(Philippians 1:25-26)

Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith,

26 *so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me.*

3. Paul's letter to the Philippians is called the "Epistle of Joy" and shows us the source of a believers joy, the life of joy and the effects of joy

The Source of Joy

1. The joy of true fellowship (Philippians 1:3-8)

(Philippians 1:3-8)

I thank my God every time I remember you.

4*In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy*

5*because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now,*

6*being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

7*It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me.*

8*God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.*

2. The joy of a purposeful life (Philippians 1:18-20)

(Philippians 1:18-20)

But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice,

19for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.

20I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

3. The joy of a relationship with the Lord (Philippians 1:21-23,3:7-11)

(Philippians 1:21-23)

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

22If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know!

23I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far;

(Philippians 3:7-11)

But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.

8What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ

9and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.

10I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

11and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

The Life of Joy

1. A life of worship (Philippians 2:1-11)

(Philippians 2:1-11)

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion,

2then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.

3Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

4Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

5Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

6Who, being in very nature God,

did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,

7but made himself nothing,

taking the very nature of a servant,

being made in human likeness.

8And being found in appearance as a man,

he humbled himself

and became obedient to death—

even death on a cross!

*9Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
10that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
11and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.*

2. A life of thanksgiving and gratitude (Philippians 2:12-16)

(Philippians 2:12-16)

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,

13for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

14Do everything without complaining or arguing,

15so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe

16as you hold out the word of life—in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing.

3. A life of service (Philippians 2:17-18)

(Philippians 2:17-18)

But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you.

18So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

The Effects of Joy

1. An attitude of perseverance (Philippians 3:12-14)

(Philippians 3:12-14)

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

13Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,

14I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

2. An attitude of faith (Philippians 4:6-7)

(Philippians 4:6-7)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

7And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

3. An attitude of contentment (Philippians 4:10-13)

(Philippians 4:10-13)

I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it.

I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.

I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.

I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

Conclusion

Rejoice in the Lord always! (Philippians 4:4)