



Philippians 4:4-9

SERIES BIG IDEA:

I have received an inheritance of joy and, through Christ, my life will leave a legacy of joy that defies the ways of the world.

I can find joy trusting that Jesus will use all circumstances to finish the work He started in me.

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, 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... for 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. I 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. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Philippians 1:3-6, 19-21 (NIV, 1984)

Jesus is our model of defiant joy. (Ephesians 5:1-2; Hebrews 12:2)

We grow in defiant joy as we become more like Christ.

Through keeping Christ first, we experience joy.

It is true that some preach Christ out of envy or rivalry, but others out of good will. The latter do so in love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. 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.

Philippians 1:15-18a (NIV, 1984)

Through walking in humility, we experience joy.

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross.

Philippians 2:5-8 (NIV, 1984)

Through trusting God regardless of circumstances, we experience joy.

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 hungry or well fed, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all things through him who gives me strength.

Philippians 4:11-13 (NIV, 1984)

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

I will rejoice in the Lord by humbly trusting God and keeping Him first in everything I think, say, and do.

4 PRACTICES OF DEFIANT JOY

1. Keep Christ first by never silencing your praises.

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

Philippians 4:4 (NIV, 1984)

2. Walk in humility by practicing gentleness at all times.

DEFIANT JOY

JOY FILLED LIFE

W E E K T W O

Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.
Philippians 4:5 (NIV, 1984)

3. Trust God in all circumstances by seeking him in prayer.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV, 1984)

4. Meditate on Christ and live the word of God.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me - put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.
Philippians 4:8-9 (NIV, 1984)

We experience joy as we become more like Christ by putting Him first.



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TEACHING SUMMARY:

When we submit to Jesus as Lord and receive Him as Savior, we receive an inheritance of joy through the Holy Spirit, but it doesn't end there.

We are to live a different life as we become members of God's eternal family. We can no longer live according to the ways of the world. We have a new way of walking through this world. We are no longer subject to the traps of the enemy. We have new life, and we must live it in a new way.

We are to live a life that keeps God first, walks in humility, and trusts God regardless of circumstances. We are to live a life that is not only modeled after Jesus but is pointed toward Him. When the Holy Spirit changes us from the inside out and we put joy into practice, we continue to become more like Jesus.

Because of Who is living in us, we can trust that God will finish the good work that He started in us and live a life to honor Him.

TALK-IT-OVER:

How have you seen your life change or a life near you change through the power of Jesus?

Of the three markers of a life of defiant joy (keeping Christ first, walking in humility, or trusting God no matter what) which is the most difficult for you? Which comes the most naturally?

In what ways would you like for Jesus to help you grow in having a joy filled life?

What is one next step you need to take today?

Who do you need to tell about what you've learned?

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING:

Day 1) Philippians 2:1-11

Day 2) 1 Samuel 15: 7-23

Day 3) Mark 12:32-34

Day 4) Isaiah 29:13-16

Day 5) Matthew 11:28-30

Day 6) John 14:22-24