

**REASONS TO REJOICE
WHERE IS THE JOY?
PHILIPPIANS 3:1; 4:4**

INTRODUCTION

What is your natural reaction to what **PAUL** says in these two verses. Impossible? No way? Get real? That's too much to ask!?

PAUL did **NOT** tell his readers to be **HAPPY**, but rather he encouraged them and us to **"REJOICE IN THE LORD."**

There are two serious mistakes made pertaining to **JOY** and **REJOICING** in the **CHRISTIAN** life:

1. There are some who make the mistake of thinking **GOD** wants the **BELIEVER** to be continually **STERN** and **SULLEN** and that there should be no **EMOTIONAL JOY** in the **CHRISTIAN** life. Many who **BELIEVE** this way **CONDEMN EMOTIONAL JOY** and **MERRIMENT** in general. If you are **ENJOYING** it, it must be **SIN!**

(e.g. My mother use to make homemade cinnamon roles that were so good we jokingly called them "SIN!")

2. There are others whose mistake is to identify **CHRISTIAN JOY** and **REJOICING** solely with the **EMOTIONAL HAPPINESS** so sought after by the world. In other words this **HAPPINESS** or **JOY** is based on the good **HAPPENINGS** in one's life. However, that is not an accurate definition of **TRUE BIBLICAL JOY** that **PAUL** was speaking of!

PAUL was implying that although there are many **CIRCUMSTANCES** in which **BELIEVERS** may **NOT** be **HAPPY** in, they can **CHOOSE TO REJOICE** and **HAVE JOY IN THE LORD** and **DELIGHT IN HIM!**

As we've said before, this was written by a man who was in prison at the time that he wrote this! It was penned by one who **HAD SUFFERED** and **WAS SUFFERING SEVERE CIRCUMSTANCES** in his life that few of us will ever know! Yet he said **"REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS!"**

**REASONS TO REJOICE
WHERE IS THE JOY?
PHILIPPIANS 3:1; 4:4**

- I. **UNDERSTAND THERE IS A JOY THAT CAN EXTEND FROM CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES OR HAPPENINGS IN LIFE IN GENERAL! (By the way, there is no problem *joying* and *rejoicing* when we find ourselves in that way!)**

*e.g. The joy of giving or receiving a special gift.
The joy of graduating from school.
The joy of getting married.
The joy of the birth of a child.
The joy of winning. (The thrill of victory.)
The joy of gaining a promotion at work or landing a new job.
The joy of some other happening in your life.*

Our **HEAVENLY FATHER** freely **GIVES** to both the **LOST** and the **SAVED** certain things that we can and do **JOY** in!
Psalm 145:9– "The LORD is good to all: And his tender mercies are over all his works."

Matthew 5:45– "...for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."

Luke 6:35– "...for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil."

Acts 14:17– "...he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness."

But we all know too well that the **JOY** that is just based upon our **CIRCUMSTANCES** CAN and OFTEN DOES QUICKLY PASS!

- II. **UNDERSTAND THERE IS A JOY THAT CAN EXTEND FROM CIRCUMSTANCES OR HAPPENINGS IN OUR LIVES AS BELIEVERS!
We Should Realize That A JOY Extending From CIRCUMSTANCES or HAPPENINGS In Our CHRISTIAN LIFE Can And Should Be A Part Of The CHRISTIAN LIFE.**

**REASONS TO REJOICE
WHERE IS THE JOY?
PHILIPPIANS 3:1; 4:4**

One of the words translated as “joy” in the N.T. could be rendered “cheerfulness” or “calm delight.”

A. This word is used to speak of the JOY that the ANGEL said that ELISABETH and ZACHARIAS and others would have at the birth of JOHN THE BAPTIST.

(Luke 1:13ff.)

1. He Would Be Great In The Sight Of The **LORD!**
2. He Would Never Be A Drunkard!
3. He Would Be Filled With The **HOLY GHOST!**
4. He Would Turn Many Of The **CHILDREN OF ISRAEL** To The **LORD THEIR GOD!**
5. He Would Go Before The **LORD JESUS CHRIST** In The **SPIRIT** And **POWER** Of **ELIJAH** As The Promised Forerunner Of *Malachi 4:5-6!*

B. This word for JOY is also used to speak of the JOY of the wise men when they saw the star. *(Matthew 2:10)*

1. The Star Is What Started Them On Their Journey! *(Matthew 2:2)*
2. The Star Is What Helped Bring Them To Jesus! *(Matthew 2:9)*

C. This word is used to speak of the JOY of the women who came to the tomb of CHRIST receiving word from the angel of the resurrection of CHRIST. *(Matthew 28:1-8)*

1. There Was **JOY** Because Of The Message They Received! *(Vs 6)*
2. There Was **JOY** Because Of The Message They Were To Give! *(Vs 7-8)*

D. This word is used to speak of the JOY of those who witnessed the power of the SPIRIT in the early CHURCH. *(Acts 8:5-8)*

1. There Is **JOY** When People Give Heed Unto The Preaching Of The **WORD!** *(Vs 6)*

**REASONS TO REJOICE
WHERE IS THE JOY?
PHILIPPIANS 3:1; 4:4**

2. There Is **JOY** When People Witness Unclean Spirits Being Deposed! *(Vs 7)*
3. There Is **JOY** When People Witness The Miracles Of **GOD!** *(Vs 7)*

E. This word is used to speak of the JOY of those who are the good and faithful servants entering into “the joy of the Lord” in the parable of the talents. *(Matthew 25:14-23)*

1. There Is The **JOY** That Comes From Pleasing The **MASTER!** *(Vs 21)*
2. There Is The **JOY** That Comes From Promotion By The **MASTER!** *(Vs 22)*
3. There Is The **JOY** That Comes From The Rewards Of **OBEDIENCE!** *(Vs 29)*

III. UNDERSTAND THERE IS ALSO A JOY THAT SHOULD EXTEND BEYOND THE CIRCUMSTANTIAL JOY IN OUR LIVES! PHILIPPIANS 4:4

There can be great **HAPPINESS** in the **CHRISTIAN LIFE**, but to think that this is solely what the **BIBLE** means by **JOY** and **REJOICING** is to be in error.

A. A JOY Based Entirely On Circumstances Can Be Lost! What can cause us to lose our circumstantial JOY?:

1. **Sin!** *(Psalm 31:9-10)*
Psalm 51:12—“...restore unto me the joy of thy salvation.”
James 1:15—“...sin when it is finished bringeth forth death.”
2. **Sinners!**
Psalm 119:158—“I beheld the transgressors, and was grieved; because they kept not thy word.”
Hebrews 12:3—“For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.”

**REASONS TO REJOICE
WHERE IS THE JOY?
PHILIPPIANS 3:1; 4:4**

3. Sons And Daughters!

Proverbs 17:25—“A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him.”

Genesis 26:35—“When Esau married two Hittite women the scripture says they “were a grief of mind to Isaac and to Rebekah.”

What can cause us to lose our circumstantial joy?
(Sin, Sinners, Sons and Daughters...)

4. Suffering!

- a. A Wrong Attitude Toward Suffering For The Name Of CHRIST. *Matthew 5:10-12*
- b. A Wrong Attitude Toward Suffering In Our Physical Bodies. (e.g. *Job*)

5. Saints!

(*2 Timothy 1:15*) -Nothing is known of **Phygellus** and **Hermogenes** beyond this single reference. It is possible that these two defections were the most unexpected by **Paul**.

(*2 Timothy 4:10*) **Demas** was ministering with **Paul** as he wrote the book of **COLOSSIANS**. (*Col. 4:14*) But then something happened.

(*2 Timothy 4:14-18*) **Alexander the coppersmith**.

Paul disputed with **Peter** face to face over doctrinal issues. (*Galatians 2:11*)

Paul and **Barnabas** disagreed over taking **John Mark** on a missionary trip. (*Acts 15:36-40*) Later, **Paul** asked for **Mark** because he saw him to be profitable to him and to the ministry. (*2 Timothy 4:11*)

**REASONS TO REJOICE
WHERE IS THE JOY?
PHILIPPIANS 3:1; 4:4**

6. Satan! 1 Peter 5:8-10

He is the main one behind all of the **JOY** stealing!

A JOY Based Entirely On Circumstances Can Be Lost!

B. A JOY Based On The LORD Is Where We Find TRUE JOY! (2 Corinthians 6:4, 10; 7:4; 1 Peter 1:3-8)

Think of our **LORD JESUS CHRIST, WHO** was both anointed “*with the oil of gladness*” (*Heb.1:9*) and also was “*a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief*” (*Isaiah 53:3*)

One can be **JOYFUL** even when **EMOTIONALLY SORROWFUL**, even when the **SPIRIT IS HEAVY**, and even when one is **ACQUAINTED WITH GRIEF**.

CHRISTIAN JOY and **REJOICING** come from having a **STEADFAST CONFIDENCE** in **GOD** regardless of one’s **CIRCUMSTANCES**. It is something **WE CHOOSE TO HAVE AND DO BASED ON FAITH!**

Look at *Romans 5:1-3, 11*.

The words **JOY, GLORY**, and **REJOICE** are all translated from the same Greek word that means *to BOAST or BRAG*.

To **BOAST** or **GLORY** in **CHRIST** and the **PROMISES OF GOD** is **REJOICING!**

- 1. **TRUE JOY** Should Extend From Our Relationship With **GOD!** (*Psalms 5:11-12*)

Because **OUR TRUST IS IN GOD** we should **REJOICE!** Because **GOD DEFENDS US** we should **REJOICE!** Because we **LOVE GOD’S NAME** we should **BE JOYFUL IN HIM!** Because **WE ARE BLESSED** we should **REJOICE!** Because **WE ENJOY THE FAVOR OF GOD** we should **REJOICE!**

**REASONS TO REJOICE
WHERE IS THE JOY?
PHILIPPIANS 3:1; 4:4**

Romans 5:11—“And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.”

2. TRUE JOY Will Extend From The Fulness Of THE HOLY SPIRIT!

a. JOY Is A FRUIT Of The SPIRIT!

Galatians 5:22-23—“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

b. Expression Of JOY Is Related To Being SPIRIT Filled!

Ephesians 5:18-20—“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; 19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; 20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

c. If We Are Not JOYFUL, We Need GOD To Revive Us.

Psalms 85:6—“Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?”

3. TRUE JOY Can Even Flow While In Difficult Circumstances If We Believe God Is In Control. (Romans 8:28)

a. JOY Can Come From Suffering For The Name Of CHRIST. (1 Peter 4:12-19)

**REASONS TO REJOICE
WHERE IS THE JOY?
PHILIPPIANS 3:1; 4:4**

- 1) **If We Get The Right Attitude.**
 - a) **Thinking It Not Strange. vs 12**
 - b) **Not Being Ashamed. (vs 16)**
 - c) **Being Patient. (1 Peter 2:19-20)**

- 2) **It Will Result In Right Action.**
(1 Peter 2:21-23)
Acts 5:40-42 – Apostles;
Acts 16:23ff – Paul & Silas;
Matthew 5:10-12 – Jesus.

b. JOY Can Come From Suffering In Our Physical Bodies.

1. **Paul Had A Thorn In The Flesh.**
(2 Corinthians 12:7-10)
2. **Timothy Had A Stomach Disorder And Other Physical Problems.**
(1 Timothy 5:23)
3. **Others Have Suffered Physically.**

CONCLUSION

So, where is **YOUR JOY**? Do you only have a **circumstantial JOY**? Are you only **JOYFUL** and **REJOICING** as long as things are going great.

Maybe you've never experienced the **JOY OF THE LORD** in your life because you are lost. **CHRIST** has **JOY** abundant waiting for you!

Maybe you're saved but you've allowed your **JOY** to be lost due to situations in your life—**Sin, Sinners, Sons And Daughters, Suffering, Saints, Satan.**

Why not get your **JOY** back! *Nehemiah 8:10*—...*the joy of the Lord is your strength.*

Isn't it time we all learn to **“Rejoice in the Lord”** as the apostle Paul did?