

**REASONS TO REJOICE**  
**ESSENTIALS FOR A JOYFUL LIFE–PT 2**  
**PHILIPPIANS 1:12-26**

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**Introduction**

We see in our passage of **SCRIPTURE** some things needed to be able to live a **JOYFUL** life—i.e. **ESSENTIALS FOR A JOYFUL LIFE!**

We saw three of these **ESSENTIALS** last week...

**I. WE NEED TO VIEW OUR LIFE FROM THE LORD'S PERSPECTIVE! (Vs. 12-14)**

*The way we look at our PROBLEMS is much more important than the PROBLEMS themselves! Our PERSPECTIVE about our PROBLEMS (i.e. our VIEW or UNDERSTANDING of our PROBLEMS) and what we FOCUS ON in the midst of our PROBLEMS can make all the difference in the world!*

*The PERSPECTIVE we need to live from – if we're going to have JOY in our life – is found in Romans 8:28–“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”*

*When we get the LORD'S PERSPECTIVE, then we will be well on our way to JOYFUL LIVING! PAUL tells us that GOD has a PURPOSE behind all the PROBLEMS of the CHILD OF GOD, therefore we must VIEW AND LIVE OUR LIFE FROM HIS PERSPECTIVE!*

**II. WE NEED TO LIVE OUR LIFE WITH THE LORD'S PRIORITIES! (Vs. 15-19)**

*In life we need to KNOW what's IMPORTANT and what is not! The most important to PAUL—CHRIST WAS BEING PREACHED! PAUL REJOICED that the GOSPEL was getting out!*

**III. WE NEED THE PRAYERS OF FELLOW BELIEVERS IN OUR LIFE! (Vs 19)**

*We ALL need GOD'S HELP and STRENGTH to get through life! PAUL mentioned the PRAYERS of the BELIEVERS at Philippi! PAUL BELIEVED THAT PRAYERS are POWERFUL!*

**A. We Know That Because PAUL PRAYED For Others!**  
*1:3-4; Colossians 1:3, 9-11; Romans 1:8-10; Eph. 1:15-16*

- B. We Know That Because PAUL ASKED For PRAYER!**  
*Romans 15:30ff; Colossians 4:2-4; 2 Thessalonians 3:1-3 1 Thessalonians 5:25–“Brethren, pray for us.”*
- C. We Know That Because PAUL Encouraged Others In The Matter Of PRAYER!**  
*1 Tim. 2:1-3; Ephesians 6:18-20*

*We said yes we need to PRAY for ourselves that we will have STRENGTH and WISDOM in what we do for the LORD! But listen, WE NEED TO HAVE OTHER PEOPLE PRAY FOR US TOO! In fact, the BIBLE tells us that WE ARE TO PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER! Why? James 5:16*

*PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER GLORIFIES GOD as we ACKNOWLEDGE HIM AND HIS WORKING!*

*PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER is a POWERFUL WAY TO CONNECT WITH GOD and HELP OTHERS.*

*It is ENCOURAGING TO KNOW THAT GOD'S PEOPLE ARE PRAYING TO GOD FOR US!*

**Let's look at three more ESSENTIALS FOR A JOYFUL LIFE...**

**IV. WE NEED TO ACCESS THE LORD'S POWER IN OUR LIVES! (Vs. 19)**

The second thing PAUL mentions in *verse 19* is **GOD'S SUPPLY** through the **SPIRIT OF JESUS CHRIST! (THE HOLY SPIRIT)**

If we are going to continue on, we need a **STRENGTH** that is **BEYOND OUR STRENGTH!** A **STRENGTH** that is **GREATER THAN OUR STRENGTH ALONE!**

i.e. We need the very **POWER OF GOD** to live our life with **JOY!**

**PAUL** said in *Ephesians 6:10*–“*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.*”

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*Psalm 28:7–“The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.”*

**GOD** wants to give us **POWER** to live by! In fact, **HE HAS ALREADY GIVEN US HIS POWER SUPPLY WHEN HE SAVED US—THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!**

However, we must **ACCESS** that **POWER SUPPLY** by living lives that are **FILLED WITH HIS HOLY SPIRIT!**

The **LORD** wants us to live lives that are **FULL OF JOY**— with a song in our hearts! But in order to do that, we **MUST ACCESS THE POWER OF HIS HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES!**

It’s called **WALKING IN THE SPIRIT!** (*Galatians 5:16ff*)

**V. WE NEED TO LIVE OUR LIVES WITH GOD’S HOPE!**  
(*Vs. 19-20*)

Not only do we need **GOD’S POWER**, but we also need **GOD’S HOPE!** Let’s read *verse 19* again and add on *verse 20* this time!

The **GOSPEL MESSAGE** is a **MESSAGE OF HOPE!** It is a **MESSAGE OF FAITH** in what **GOD** has said and a **HOPE** (or a **SURE EXPECTATION**) that **HE WILL DO** what **HE** said **HE WILL DO!**

*Romans 5:1-11*

**PAUL** knew that he would be **DELIVERED** either **FROM** his trials or **THROUGH** his trials— and because of this – he could step out with boldness!

*Hebrews 11:1–“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”*

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**HOPE** and **FAITH** go hand in hand! You can’t live a **JOYFUL** life without having **HOPE!** You’ve got to have **HOPE** to cope! **GOD** has **PROMISED** us a bright future! We should live in that **HOPE!**

*Cornell University did a study of 25,000 POWs from WWII. They found that man can handle tremendous stress and pressure as long as he has hope.*

The moment **HOPE** is gone we’re doomed. Where do you get your **HOPE** to keep on keeping on? Is that source reliable? Is it a godly **HOPE** or a worldly **HOPE?**

**We as BELIEVERS – more than any other people – should be a people of HOPE – and that HOPE should be THE LORD!**

**VI. WE NEED TO BOTH FIND AND LIVE OUT GOD’S PURPOSE FOR OUR LIVES!** (*Vs 21-26*)

By the time **PHILIPPIANS** was written **PAUL** was **OLD** and **TIRED**. He had been in prison awhile. He was ready to go to **HEAVEN**. His friends were free but he was not. He was in chains. But he was sure of his **PURPOSE** in life!

What was his purpose? It is found in *verse 21*. (*Cf. Acts 26:16-23*)

**PAUL** was not suicidal – but he was ready to be in the **PRESENCE OF JESUS!** He was not afraid of **DYING** – he was not afraid to walk through **THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH!** To him, **DEATH** was only the **DOORWAY** to better things!

To die was gain for him, but while he was here **PAUL** had a **PURPOSE** for living—**GOD’S PURPOSE FOR HIS LIFE!**

How would you fill in this blank? For me to live is \_\_\_\_\_.  
What is your **PURPOSE IN LIFE?** What makes worth living?

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**A. Some People Live For POSSESSIONS!**

Their attitude is, *“Get all you can, can all you get, and sit on the can!”* Get, get, get!

Many folks buy things they don’t need, with money they don’t have to impress people they don’t even like!

That’s not a smart way to live!

Folks work to keep up with the Jones and just about the time they catch up with them the Jones get a raise and they’re in trouble all over again!

**B. Some People Live For PLEASURE!**

The attitude of *“If it feels good – do it!”* or the attitude of *“Grab all the gusto out of life that you can!”*

They believe that anything to make them feel good is OK!  
Anything to relieve their boredom for one little moment is fine!

The problem with living for PLEASURE – is that PLEASURE passes away – it will not last!

**C. Some People Live For POWER!**

Other words for power are: *position, prestige and popularity!*

They dress for success and/or drive to impress. With them image is everything! The problem is—one minute you can be the hero and the next minute you can be the zero. There isn’t any lasting or ultimate fulfillment!

PAUL had a long term goal in mind when he said: *“For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”*

PAUL was looking at things in the light of ETERNITY! He knew what his FUTURE held, because he knew the ONE who held his FUTURE!

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PAUL was more interested in living his life with the ETERNAL POWER of the LORD JESUS CHRIST on him than he was in attaining any fleeting earthly power of his own!

**Conclusion**

The best thing we can do in this life is to invest our life in the next one!  
This life, even for the ones of us who might live what’s considered to be a long life, is going to be over way too soon! But, every one of us is going to exist SOMEWHERE for ALL ETERNITY!

There are only two places that the Bible mentions—HEAVEN AND HELL!

That is what the BIBLE teaches and we cannot change that fact! But we can have a say so in where we spend ETERNITY! Without CHRIST there is mostly a JOYLESS EXISTENCE here and then an ETERNITY IN HELL!

With CHRIST, we can choose to have JOY both now and in ETERNITY in the place HE is preparing for us in HEAVEN! Do you know JESUS CHRIST personally? Have you given your life to HIM? Don’t you want a JOY-FILLED LIFE? It begins by having a PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP with JESUS CHRIST!

But even as a CHILD OF GOD this morning you may be missing out on HIS JOY!

1. **If you’re not viewing your life from the Lord’s Perspective!**
2. **If you’re not living your life with the Lord’s Priorities!**
3. **If you’re not seeing the need of the Prayers Of Fellow Believers!**
4. **If you’re not Accessing The Lord’s Power In Your Life!**
5. **If you’re not Living Your Life With God’s Hope!**
6. **If you’re not Finding And Living Out God’s Purpose For Your Life!**