

“God with Us: Got Joy?”

Wylie United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – December 14, 2014

[Philippians 4:4-8, 12-13](#)

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 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. 9-11... 12 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. 13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

Apostle Paul writes Philippians from prison and mentions joy 17 times.

- Joy that TRANSCENDS CIRCUMSTANCES!
(v. 4) Rejoice in the Lord always.
- Joy & Contentment is LEARNED!
(v. 12) 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.
- Joy is learned through TRIALS!
[James 1:2-4](#)
2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

The Secret of Great Joy is to...

1. PRAISE GOD SACRIFICIALLY

(v.4) Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

[Heb 13:15](#)

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise-the fruit of lips that confess his name.

The Secret of Great Joy is to...

2. REPLACE WORRY WITH PRAYER

(v. 6) Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

[1 Peter 5:7](#)

Cast all your anxiety upon him, because he cares for you.

The Secret of Great Joy is...

3. GODLY THINKING

(v. 8) 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.

Great Joy results in...

4. GOD'S INCOMPREHENSIBLE PEACE & STRENGTH

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

(v. 13) I can do everything through him who gives me strength.