

“God is with Us: Immanuel Joy

Wylie United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – December 17, 2017

[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.

The Secret of Immanuel Joy is to...

1. PRAISE GOD CONTINUALLY & SACRIFICIALLY

[Phi 4:4](#)

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 Immanuel Joy is to...

2. REPLACE WORRY WITH PRAYER

[Phi 4:6](#)

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 Immanuel Joy is to...

3. PRACTICE GODLY THINKING

[Phi 4:8](#)

... 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.

[2 Cor 10:5](#)

... take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Immanuel Joy results in...

4. GOD'S TRANSCENDENT PEACE & STRENGTH

[Phi 4:7](#)

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

[Phi 4:13](#)

I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

[Neh 8:10](#)

“...the joy of the Lord is your strength.”