

THE POWER OF ONE SIMPLE WORD
PHILIPPIANS 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

Introduction

1. There seems to be so much gloom, despair, and hopelessness in the world today.
2. We're still sheltering in place and people are getting antsy.
3. We are so used to going out and doing the "normal" things in life.
4. Like all of you, I have seen people in my life who have no joy in theirs.
5. They try various substitutes for joy - innumerable amusements, expensive entertainments, transparent pleasures, but they find no real joy in any of them.
6. The Apostle Paul urges the church at Philippi to rejoice! Not just once, but twice.

I. BEFORE SOME PEOPLE ARE ABLE TO REJOICE, TWO QUESTIONS MUST BE ANSWERED.

- A. The first question is, "How can there be any joy in my life like mine?"
1. Health problems, economic problems, marriage problems, work problems, etc..
 2. Many feel like they are sitting on a keg of dynamite, that their lives are going to pieces, and so, how can there be any joy?
 3. The answer to that question is to be found in the difference between pleasure and joy.
 - a). Pleasure is by its nature a sensation in response to external stimulus.
 - b). Joy, however, is deeper than that. Joy is the total dispensation of man's spirit, the posture and bearing of his soul.
 4. The joy that is shown to us in the Bible can be experienced by everyone regardless of what's happening in their life at the present moment, because it is something that lies way down beneath the level of circumstance. **Cf. Acts 5:17-42*****
- B. The second question is, "How can religion be the source of joy?"
1. Many people have the idea that religion is nothing but sackcloth and ashes because it suggest to them the sinfulness of man and the wrath of an angry God.
 2. No wonder they have that idea, because some have made religion a matter of darkness and superstition.
 3. They have taken one aspect of religion - the sinfulness of man, and made it the total picture from which every drop of joy has been extracted.
 4. If you look at the NT you don't get this idea at all.
 5. The resurrection morning was a sad time to all those who had been following Jesus, yet, notice what Jesus one word Jesus said to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary. **Matthew 28:1-9*****
 6. "Rejoice" is the culmination of the Christian faith, which is far different than that of religion.

II. ARE YOU READY TO HEAR WHAT JESUS WAS SAYING ON RESURRECTION MORNING?

- A. Rejoice because Jesus rose from the dead to assure our salvation. **John 8:56** *Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.*
- B. Rejoice because your name is written in heaven if you have been saved. **Luke 10:20** *Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.*

C. Rejoice at the prospect of reward after having served Jesus. **Matthew 5:12** *Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

III. REJOICE, AND AGAIN I SAY REJOICE.

A. Rejoicing can only come about through Jesus. Just to be with Jesus is enough to fill our lives with gladness, and give us a new outlook on life. **1 John 1:1-4** *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.*

B. Rejoicing in Jesus goes deeper than this, though. In order to have a more complete joy, we must participate with Him.

C. This is the joy of creative action - of making something, repairing something, setting something right, or putting somebody on his feet. **John 15:8-11** *By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.*

D. There is, however, a deeper level of rejoicing, and that is to really fall in love with Jesus. To love Him above everyone, or everything else. **1 Peter 1:8** *...whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory...*

Conclusion:

1. This, then, is God's invitation to you, Rejoice! It is extended to all of you in the Name of Jesus.
2. This morning you are invited to leave all of your sadness behind, leave all of your anxieties, all your grumpiness, and all that makes your life stagnant and unproductive, and go forth with unconquerable gladness in your heart, having trusted in Jesus as your Savior, and allowing Him to be the King of your life. **Philippians 4:4** *Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!*