

**Responsive Reading: Psalm 97:1-12**

*1 Thessalonians 2:19, 20 The Soul Winner's Crown!!!*

Philippians 4:4-9 Rejoice always! Jesus is right there with you! Be Moderate! Follow & do the things that are good-keep repeating to yourself the just, pure, lovely, things of good report, Godly virtues and praiseworthy things. That'll keep you in the peace of God!

2 Corinthians 4:8-9 Stuff happens, but God is in control so recognize that He has a plan for it all...

**These following two verses are not opposites,  
but are two sides of the same coin--you can have joy even in trials!**  
1 Thess. 5:16 Shortest verse in the Greek NT Rejoice Always!  
John 11:35 Shortest verse in the English NT Jesus wept...

**John 16:20-22 No man takes your joy. It's yours, given to you by the HG.  
Don't give it up to any one or for anything!**

**Rejoicing is a command and a choice, not a feeling.**

**It is deliberately focussing on Jesus & our eternal treasure from Him, not the shadows, troubles, or threats**

Matthew 5:11-12 Blessings are accounted to you when you are reviled for Jesus' case.

Colossians 3:1-3 Our life is hid in Him, & He is at the right hand of God

Philippians 4:4 rejoice IN THE LORD, not other stuff, including circumstances

James 1:2-3 Count it joy; trials are a help and benefit to me to be a better person in Jesus Christ, & to learn to trust Him, not me, not others, not circumstances!

Romans 5:3-5 Rejoice in the trials & troubles- by doing that, your rejoicing it is doing a work in you ~ steadiness, stick-to-it-tive-ness, hope, & comfort + knowing God's love.

Psalm 5:7 Focus on the Lord of mercy, walk in fear of Him &

Psalm 5:11-12 rejoice in His protection

Psalm 51:11-12 Seek HIm in repentance & know that He will restore

Acts 16:25 praises & hymns in jail!

Acts 5:41 Are we worthy to suffer Jesus' name?

Philippians 2:14-15 Choices! No murmuring, blaming, disputing...focus on His ways & be His light in this dark world. Put your emphasis on the riches in Christ & our glorious future, not the present stuff & things & troubles... look to the end of the race!

**Develop the Habit of Rejoicing!!**

1. *Daily focus on the Riches God has given us in Christ* Eph 1:3-14
2. *Walk in the Spirit, not in the flesh & remember it takes time to produce good fruit...* Gal 5:22
3. *Sing! Use the book of Psalms & find the songs throughout the whole Bible...* Ps 96:1
4. *Pray without ceasing by keeping a heart of prayer, always ready to pray for another, always willing to hear God's heart* Philippians 4:6
  - Luke 11:5-13 the midnight visitor in need...
  - Luke 18:1-8 be like the widow who did not let up asking & petitioning the unjust judge
  - Daniel 10:13-14 Keep praying until you get your answer-don't lose sight of Jesus! Lk 11!
  - Romans 8:31-32 Give thanks in EVERYTHING!
  - Ephesians 5:20 give thanks always...call on His name in faith.

### Rejoicing Follows Thankfulness, So Develop the Habit of Thankfulness

1. *Recognize the overwhelming power of God & His sovereign goodness in every situation.*

Genesis 50:20 What they meant for harm, God used for good

2. *Show your Trust in God in your trials with Thankfulness*

Exodus 15:22-24 Don't murmur, don't grumble... you are not trusting! Especially in trials!!

1 Peter 1:6-8 diverse problems, but trust anyway & let Him fight the battles for you; Troubles may only be a season, but even if not, hang on to the trust & joy in the Lord & His end plans for you.

2 Corinthians 6:10 Paul lived it & reminded us that our riches are in Jesus above all.

**Recognize that you can have pain & joy at the same time by having the right focus.**

**1 Peter 1:3-5 We have been given a new birth & are alive to God, no longer dead in our sins**

**1 Corinthians 10:13 NO temptation will destroy you, for He will give you the strength to bear it. Remember, with God in the mix, even the trials & temptations have a purpose He will reveal...**

**Phil 4:4 Always rejoice in any & all circumstances-our inner attitude should never reflect our outer circumstances. Stuff happens, but perspective & focus makes all the difference.**

Closing Hymn: [Trust and Obey](#), page 171

Watch Pastor Billy's sermon at <https://youtu.be/m0Q8TZMiUH8>

Listen to the audio at <http://chirb.it/6c7AFs>

