

# Rejoice

11-14-21

Philippians 4:4 (ESV)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

**In the book of Philippians, we have looked some very insightful and challenging Christian truths that are meant for the mature in Christ. Such as Christ in us and HIM acting out through us, plus us having the same attitude as Christ in all things. It is obvious that we operate in another sphere than the world. We are to walk on this earth as Jesus walked on this earth. Therefore, as citizens of heaven no matter what the world throws at us, we are told to rejoice. We are different!**

Philippians 4:5 (ESV)

Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand;

**Reasonableness – Difficult to translate - *Involved is the willingness to “yield one’s personal rights” and to show consideration and gentleness to others. We “yield our personal rights” because we are trusting the mighty invisible Hand of God, the power of the resurrection. The Lord is at hand! Of course, this means, Jesus will soon return. However, from Phil.3:10 Paul has encouraged us to experience the “power of the resurrection” now and here again he continues to encourage us to experience that “power of the resurrection” here and now. Paul’s words are saying that the Lord is always near HIS people; continually “at hand”. Christ is ever at our door. *Our reasonableness is due to the fact God's mighty invisible hand is moving in our current situation.****

Philippians 4:6 (ESV)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

**Anxious literally means to have a distracting care. In our reasonableness, we are to move from being anxious (having a distracting care) to prayer laying everything at the foot of the throne of God. **Knowing God has it, we are not anxious, and we rejoice.** This is a great benefit.**

Philippians 4:7 (ESV)

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

**When we turn from anxiety to prayer with thanksgiving, God will give us HIS own peace. **He is at Hand, He has it!** Therefore, we rejoice! We experience God's peace "which passes all understanding". The peace of God far surpasses human comprehension. God's peace "guards" our hearts. The word "guard" is a military term which means military protection from an enemy. In this case God's peace guards heart and mind from all anxiety and despair.**

Ephesians 3:20 (ESV)

Now to HIM who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,

**We rejoice living in God's resurrection power knowing that the Lord is at hand. **Jesus is at the door!** Therefore, based on our relationship with Christ our focus changes.**

Philippians 4:8 (ESV)

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

**This is not positive thinking or failure to face the facts. This is experiencing the "power of the resurrection" and trusting the mighty invisible hand of God at work in all situations. This is faith; hearing God and doing what HE says. Application:**

Philippians 4:9 (ESV)

What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

**The mature put these things into practice. The mature rejoice! The mature see God in everything and are not anxious but give everything to God in prayer with thanksgiving. Therefore, the mature God have true peace. The mature focus on whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, they think about these things. All this come from being consumed with Christ.**

Galatians 2:20 (ESV)

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.