**The Joy of the Lord**

**Text**: Phil. 4:1-9

Key Verse: Phil. 4:4 - Rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I will say, rejoice!

Read the passage (Phil. 4:1-9)

* Euodia & Syntyche’s personal conflict in the church threatened unity and joy.
	+ Is it easy or hard to find joy in a room where you feel tension?
		- How does a situation like this make you feel?
* What does Paul encourage Euodia & Syntyche to do?
	+ Be of the same mind in the Lord.
		- What does this mean? How do we do this?
			* Phil. 2:2; Rom. 12:16; 1 Cor. 1:10; Phil. 3:16; 1 Pet. 4:1
				+ Notice – Phil. 3:16 – we are of the same mind because we are of the same rule (standard) = God’s word.
* Centerfold verse 4:4
	+ We should be about Rejoicing in the Lord!
		- Why can we rejoice? (Especially when we have tension between people)
			* For many reasons, but I think specifically, goes back to v.3 – Because your name is in the Book of Life.
			* v.5 – your joy in the Lord can be evident to others around and it is a way of evangelism.
				+ People long for true joy and try and find it in so many ways, but if they see that you have true joy it will draw them to the Lord.
	+ The Lord is near.
		- We can find peace (true peace) when the Lord is near us.
			* Peace is the opposite of anxious thought or worry.
			* Paul tells us that we can have joy when the Lord is near, and that brings peace.
	+ We replace anxiety with Prayer (v.6-7)
		- Command – “Don’t be anxious”
		- Solution – Prayer, petition, & thanksgiving
		- Result = Peace of God that transcends all understanding.
			* Matt. 6:25-34
				+ Command – Don’t worry about your life (v.25)
				+ Solution – Seek first the kingdom (v.33)
				+ Result – These things given to you (food, drink, clothes) v.33, 31.
* Guarding the Mind with Godly Thoughts (v. 8)
	+ What you dwell on affects your joy.
	+ Think on: what is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, praiseworthy.
	+ Spiritual mental discipline protects joy from negative influences.
* Living What You’ve Learned (v. 9)
	+ Joy is not just a feeling; it’s lived out in obedience.
	+ The God of peace will be with you when you follow His ways.
	+ Joy grows as we practice the truth daily.
* Application & Discussion Questions
	+ What’s the difference between joy and happiness?
	+ How can you "rejoice in the Lord always" in hard seasons?
	+ What practical steps can you take to guard your thoughts (v. 8)?
	+ How does reconciliation restore joy in the church?
* Conclusion
	+ The joy of the Lord is a choice, a mindset, and a gift from God.
	+ It is maintained through unity, prayer, godly thinking, and obedience.
	+ When we live this way, the God of peace will be with us — and our joy will be full.

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Key Verse: Phil. 4:4 - Rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I will say, rejoice!

Read the passage (Phil. 4:1-9)

* Euodia & Syntyche’s personal conflict in the church threatened \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* What does Paul encourage Euodia & Syntyche to do? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-
	+ How? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Why can we Rejoice? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	+ Replace anxiety with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (v.6-7)
		- Command – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
		- Solution – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
		- Result = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Guarding the Mind with Godly Thoughts (v. 8) - What you dwell on affects your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Joy is not just a feeling; it’s lived out in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Application & Discussion Questions

* + What’s the difference between joy and happiness?
		- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	+ How can you "rejoice in the Lord always" in hard seasons?
		- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	+ What practical steps can you take to guard your thoughts (v. 8)?
		- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	+ How does reconciliation restore joy in the church?
		- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_