**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?
    - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_