

A Living Gospel
Sunday, January 7th 2018

Philippians 4:4

“Joy is the benchmark and a bridge for the person who is a living gospel.”

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I. The Command

“Rejoice...”

Rejoice – chairo – calling for a lifestyle of joy that emanates from an active choice of our will regardless of whether confronted with joyful or adverse circumstances and/or people.

“...in the Lord”

In the Lord is the governing factor in the exhortation. It is the Philippians’ faith in the Lord which makes rejoicing in the throes of opposition a glorious possibility.

“Joy is the default emotional state of one who has grasped the depth of the Gospel.” Bobby Conway

“always...”

Even in the midst of suffering and afflictions you are going through, I want you to rejoice always.

Joy finds its expression in rejoicing, because we find joy regardless of our circumstances.

“again, I say rejoice.”

again--as he had already said, "Rejoice" Joy is the predominant feature of the Epistle.

II. The Witness

“One of the missing links to effective evangelism today is a lack of joy.” B. Conway

Joy builds a bridge through which we can share the gospel with someone. Joyful people are infectious. Joy brings credibility and desire to gospel.

“We are chosen for joy. However hard the Christian life may be, it is the way of joy. A gloomy Christian is a classic contradiction, and perhaps nothing has done Christianity more harm than overly serious believers with long faces.” William. Barclay

III. The Joy Stealers

- 1) Busyness
- 2) Relational Tensions
- 3) Financial Stress
- 4) Sin

If you have lost your joy ask God to revive your heart and pray this prayer:

“Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?” Psalm 85:6