

SO WHAT

- Comment on this statement by William Vander Haven: “Joy is not the absence of trouble, but the presence of Christ.”
- According to what Paul wrote in Philippians 1:3-6, what are some reasons we can have joy in life?
- Are you facing a difficult circumstance where your joy, faith, and patience are being tested? How have you been responding to this?

NOW WHAT

- How would you strengthen your faith that will keep a perspective of joy in every circumstance of life?
- Do you think you are fulfilling God’s plan and purpose for your life? If not, what would you do to realign yourself to His will for your life?
- What practical steps can you take so that you will remain focused on the Lord and not be distracted by worry, anxiety, fear, and other negative emotions?

PRAYER

- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you develop the fruit and attitude of joy in your heart (Philippians 1:19; 2:1,2).
- Pray for the joy of the Lord to strengthen everyone in your Victory group.
- Intercede for your family and friends to experience the joy that comes from knowing Christ.



WEEK 1

Joy in Christ



NOTES

CONNECT

- Tell one clean joke to the group.
- What is one recent circumstance, situation, or event that made you so happy?
- Who is one person that made you happy this week? What happened?

WORD

²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me. PHILIPPIANS 1:25,26

WHAT

What is the difference between happiness and joy? Happiness is a short-lived emotion based on external circumstances. But genuine joy is different. It comes from within when we have a vibrant relationship with God. How do we experience true joy in our lives?

1 Joy comes as we grow stronger in our faith.

²⁵Knowing this, I am convinced that I will remain alive so I can continue to help all of you grow and experience the joy of your faith. ²⁶And when I come to you again, you will have even more reason to take pride in Christ Jesus because of what he is doing through me. PHILIPPIANS 1:25,26, NLT

Joy is something that comes from a growing faith in God that despite of the difficult circumstances that we face, we know that God will make all things work together for our good and according to His plan. What made Paul joyful and willing to persevere? How is this true in your own situation?

2 Joy comes when we fulfill our purpose in life.

... ¹⁶holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain. ¹⁷Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me. PHILIPPIANS 2:16-18, NKJV

Paul knew his calling and purpose in life. He was happy because his efforts were not wasted in preaching the Word of God in Philippi. He ran the race and won. Paul's joy did not depend on his present circumstances. When we know that we are fulfilling the plan and purpose of God in our lives, can joy still be possible even amidst trials?

3 Joy comes as we focus on the Lord.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! ⁵Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. PHILIPPIANS 4:4,5, NASB

Paul remained focused on the Lord Jesus. He did not write, "rejoice because" or "rejoice in your pain and difficulties," but "rejoice IN the Lord always." The focus is on our living Lord, the One who promises to complete His work in us (Philippians 1:6), the One who supplies all of our needs according to His glorious riches (Philippians 4:19), and the One who died for us on the cross. What are the many other reasons why we can rejoice in Jesus (Philippians 4:11-13; Philippians 3:1)?
