



Rejoicing Always

Philippians 3:1 -- Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things again is no trouble to me, and it is a safeguard for you.

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

Introduction

1. The study of the term “rejoice” lends itself to a good exercise in research and a need to explore the origin of word in its original language. First, there are several Greek words translated “rejoice” and there are several English words used to translate those terms other than rejoice, like “glory” and “boast.”
2. Further, the contexts of each word need to be considered to determine what makes a Christian rejoice and what they should rejoice in. The concept of rejoicing is insightful into this particular display of emotion that only the Christian can partake of apart from the rest of the world, for it is truly a gift from God’s grace.

A. The Sources of Christian Joy

1. Surprisingly and often shamefully we find ourselves unable to discover anything to be joyous about. We let the world dictate our feels by allowing it to overwhelm us with its cares and worries. Thus, God helps us to know what we need to be thankful for and joyous about.
2. First, it is no accident that the words for “joy” (Greek - $\alpha\gamma\alpha\lambda\lambda\iota\alpha$) and “rejoice” ($\χα\lambda\alpha\iota\omega$) appear particularly where there is the expressed mention of the coming of the Son of God, of being in Him, and of hope in Him. In truth, the whole joyous message of the New Testament is a proclamation of God’s saving work in Christ

Luke 1:68-69 -- Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited us and accomplished redemption for His people, and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of David His servant –

3. There is, of course, joy in the miracles of God (Luke 13:17; Acts 13:52), but even more, there is joy in God’s love for His elect and that their names are written in heaven.

Luke 10:17 -- And the seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.”

Luke 10:20 -- “Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven.”

4. Further, there is joy over those who come out of the world and begin a new life in service to God.

Luke 15:7,10 -- I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents, than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.... In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

5. The book of Luke has as a basic theme the subject of joy, and this is seen especially in its conclusion were it is overflowing with incidences of rejoicing.

Luke 24:41,52 -- And while they still could not believe it for joy and were marveling, He said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?”... And they returned to Jerusalem with great joy and were continually in the temple praising God.

6. In the expansion of the church, there is joy among the apostles in their suffering shame and persecution for Christ’s sake.

Acts 5:41 -- So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name.

7. All were filled with joy at the preaching and conversion of the Gentiles, as well as, glorying among the pagans themselves.
Acts 11:18 -- And when they heard this, they quieted down, and glorified God, saying, "Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life."
Acts 8:5-8,39 -- And Philip went down to Samaria... For in the case of many who had unclean spirits, they were coming out of them shouting with a loud voice; and many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed. And there was much rejoicing in that city... And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch saw him no more, but he on his way rejoicing.
Acts 15:30-31 -- So when they were sent away, they went down to Antioch; and having gathered the congregation together, they delivered the letter. And when they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement.
8. Joy is also "perfected" and "fulfilled" (□□□□□ □□□□□□□□□□) at the completeness of the gospel preached and the consummation of the ages.
1 John 1:4 -- And these things we write, so that our joy may be made complete
2 John 2:12 -- Having many things to write to you, I do not want to do so with paper and ink; but I hope to come to you and speak face to face, that your joy may be made full.
9. Joy is such a powerful thing placed in the hands of the disciplines that Jesus promised that the world could not remove it from their hearts.
John 16:22 -- Therefore you too now have sorrow; but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one take your joy away from you.
10. Paradoxically, joy is usually found in the midst of sadness, affliction and persecution, thus giving proof of its power. Paul writing from prison...
Philippians 4:4,10 -- ...But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me, indeed, you were concerned before, but you lacked opportunity.
Romans 12:12 -- ...Rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer...
11. Yet joy needs to be coupled with patience (Hebrews 10:36) and obedience to sound doctrine (Hebrews 12:17) in order to endure.
12. Joy is an essential part of faith and of the fruit of the Spirit.
Galatians 5:22 -- But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness...
13. This joy is the inheritance of the saints for which Paul labors for them all.
2 Corinthians 1:24 -- Not that we lord it over your faith, but as workers with you for your joy; for in your faith you are standing firm.
2 Corinthians 2:3 -- And this is the very thing I wrote you, lest, when I come, I should have sorrow from those who ought to make me rejoice; having confidence in you all, that my joy would be the joy of you all.
Romans 8:17 -- And if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.

B. Good Boasting

1. Although the term for "boasting" (□□□□□□□□) is rarely a good thing when men boast in themselves, it is always a good thing when one boasts in God. The term is then usually translated "rejoice" or "exult."
2 Corinthians 10:17 -- But he who boasts, let him boast in the Lord.
Romans 5:11 -- And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.
2. When the Christian does boast in himself, as Paul well knew, he can only boast or rejoice in his weaknesses, for it is through them that God's strength is most apparent.
2 Corinthians 11:30 -- If I have to boast, I will boast of what pertains to my weakness.
2 Corinthians 12:9 -- And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.