

# Study on REJOICE

*“Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice.” (Philippians 4:4)*

What does it mean to rejoice? What does it mean to rejoice in the Lord? Does it literally mean always? What about when bad things happen? The apostle Paul said it twice in the same verse, what is the significance of that? Hmm...do I rejoice in the Lord always? These are all questions that I have been pondering in my heart and mulling through my mind. Today's study is focusing on Philippians 4:4. However, there is a treasure of verses throughout God's Word on this subject. To better understand the deeper meaning of words used in this verse, I have turned to e-Sword.com where you can look up the Hebrew and Greek meanings of each word, as well as Webster's Dictionary. To start this study, we will begin with the word "rejoice."

The meaning of "rejoice" in the original Greek language for the above verse is described in three ways: *"to be full of cheer, calmly happy, well off."*

## 1. What does it mean to be "full of cheer?"

The word "full," according to Webster's Dictionary means:

*Abounding, saturated, having within its limits all it can hold.*

The word "cheer" means:

*a. To salute (greet) with shouts of joy or cheers;*

*b. To dispel gloom, sorrow, silence or apathy; to cause to rejoice; to gladden; to make cheerful;*

*c. To infuse life; spirit, animation; to incite; to encourage.*

I find it interesting in the definition above that besides actively spreading joy and cheer, with expressions of excitement, our role is to also dispel gloom, sorrow, silence or apathy. Ouch! How often do we "greet" God and others by diving first into all our problems? Is this how we are to greet Him or others? How often do we keep to ourselves, keep quiet or perhaps just look the other way, when someone is in need of being cheered up or encouraged? This definition of rejoice clearly takes the focus off of "me" and onto God and others! In essence, you could say that we are all called to be "cheerleaders" in the Kingdom of God! Spurring one another on unto the day of Christ Jesus!

## 2. The second description of rejoice is to be "calmly happy."

Calmly means:

*In a quiet manner; without disturbance, agitation, tumult, or violence; without passion; quietly.*

Happy means:

*Blessed; enjoying the presence and favor of God, harmonious; living in concord; enjoying the pleasures of friendship.*

This is quite a contrast from vocally expressing adoration, praise, encouragement, etc. This meaning digs deeper into an inner peace, assurance that only comes from a right relationship with God. I am reminded once again of "Who I am in Christ!"

**3. The third definition of rejoice is “well off.”** The hymn “It Is Well with My Soul” immediately comes to mind. There is so much to praise God for! No matter what, in the overall scheme of things, as a child of God and a child of the King of kings, I am “well off!” My future, my eternity is secure in Him! I have great cause to rejoice!

In reviewing all three meanings of “rejoice” above, in your own words, what does “rejoice” mean to you?

---

---

---

Now that we have tackled the main word “rejoice,” we must not overlook the following in Philippians 4:4:

- a. the phrase “in the Lord”
- b. the word “always”
- c. significance of being repeated

Rejoice in the Lord always...Look at this closely. Does it say to rejoice in our circumstances, in things? No, it clearly states to rejoice in the Lord always! Not sometimes, not just when we feel like it, not just when things are going great, but “always!” When we rejoice in the Lord, our attention is focused on God; who He is and who we are in Christ. He receives all the glory!

At this point, you may be thinking, but wait a minute, aren’t we to “rejoice” in all things too? We are to “give thanks” in all things. God’s Word tells us “In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” (I Thessalonians 5:18). To give thanks means to express gratitude; an acknowledgment made to express a sense of favor or kindness received. What is the difference? Can one rejoice always without first giving thanks in all things? Are these two requirements so closely integrated that it takes one to complete the other?

An acronym that was shared with me for rejoice is: **R**eceiving **E**verything **J**oyfully **O**nly **I**n **C**hrist **E**veryday.

When I look at “rejoice” from this perspective, I realize two things:

1. Nothing happens to us without it first going through God’s Hands!

Just recently through the study of “A Woman’s Heart-God’s Dwelling Place” by Beth Moore, I was introduced to a new thought-revelation: Jesus lives to intercede for us. Not just “lives” as I understand it, but Jesus *loves*, it’s a passion of His, to intercede continually for each of us! Think on this wonderful truth; you are constantly on His mind and in His conversations with the Heavenly Father. He loves you and every detail in your life matters to Him! Nothing is too trivial!

Then ponder this: everything that we experience has first been discussed and deliberated between our Savior and Abba Father. Only that which is crucial to bring about the purpose in which God created us is allowed. God has a specific purpose for each of us. We each have been uniquely made; to fulfill the purpose for which God sent us to this generation!

“For I know the thoughts I think towards you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, not of evil, to give you an expected end” (Jeremiah 29:11). Everything, absolutely everything, is lined up with God’s will— His purpose for us, if we follow His plan.

Consider Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane. He prayed, saying, “Father if Thou be willing, remove this cup from Me, nevertheless, not My will, but Yours be done” (Luke 22:42). Jesus was saying if His purpose could still be fulfilled without the way of the cross, to please remove that cup. The answer...the cup wasn’t removed. If it could have, I know that God would have chosen a different way. It was imperative in order for Christ’s purpose to be fulfilled, for Christ to endure the road of the cross.

We can have great confidence in knowing that absolutely everything we experience has been divinely allowed or appointed. It’s not haphazard, or happenstance. “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, but in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Because Christ lives to intercede for me, I will REJOICE! I will receive everything joyfully only in Christ everyday...because I trust Him. He knows what I need to fulfill my purpose in this generation, today!

2. I will receive everything joyfully only in Christ everyday...because of “Who I am in Christ!” List the statements of “Who I am in Christ” that have special meaning to you today:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Now, receive joyfully who you are in Christ. Go back through your list above and speak each truth. For example: “*Heavenly Father, I receive joyfully today that because of Christ I have been adopted as your child, I can call you my Abba Father! HalleluYah!*” Repeat this exercise for each Truth Statement.

REJOICE in each Truth! Give God praise for who He is and for the amazing reality of His provision of us being in Christ!

Finally, one last thought. In Scripture, every word has significance...every word! Whenever something is repeated, it is not accidental. It is like a flashing red light saying; pay attention to this...don’t miss it! Another place in Scripture in which a word was repeated in the same verse was directly from our Beloved Jesus when He was talking to Nicodemus. He could have just said, “Verily I say unto thee that except a man be born again he cannot see the Kingdom of God” (John 3:3). But He didn’t. He said, “Verily, verily I say unto thee...” In today’s terms...listen up Nicodemus! This is very important. Pay attention. You must get this point! With the word “rejoice” being repeated twice in Philippians 4:4, without a shadow of doubt, it too is a flashing red light to us, screaming for our full attention.

So...go boldly into the very throne room of God today, rejoicing in Him, the Lover of your soul. Because of Him, all is well! Give Him all the praise! Rejoice!