

REJOICE – ALWAYS??? REALLY??

I Thess. 5:16

NASB: Rejoice Always; NIV: Be joyful always. KJV: Rejoice evermore

Phil. 4:4 – Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again – rejoice!

Happiness vs. Biblical Joy:

*happiness is external; joy is _____

*happiness is based on circumstances, people or success; joy is based in Christ

*happiness is based on feelings; joy is based in _____

**Joy depends upon _____, happiness upon happenings.

II Cor. 6:10 - Paul says he was “sorrowful, yet always rejoicing...”

It is not natural. It is supernatural. It is second in the list of the Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22). Rom. 14:17 – kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and joy

A. Joy is based in _____ - Neh. 8:10 – “the joy OF THE LORD is your strength” Phil. 4:4 - rejoice IN THE LORD

B. Joy is a result of _____ in Christ - John 15:11 – “I have told you this so that My joy might be in you...” What had He told them? To abide in Him (v. 4); to abide in His love (v. 9); to obey His commands. (V. 10)

C. Joy is a result of controlling our _____ - Phil. 4:8 - “whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.” That section begins with our secondary text: v. 4 - Rejoice in the Lord always. Then he tells us how to do that: worry about nothing (v. 6); pray about everything (v. 6); and controlling our thoughts (v. 8)

D. Joy is a result of perspective - Rom. 5:1-11 It is based on _____

1) joy comes from having hope in the _____ - v. 2

2) joy comes from knowing God is in control - v. 3-5 (Rom. 8:28,29)

3) joy comes from knowing we have _____ with God - v. 9-11

1. Make sure your joy is based in Christ - no one and nothing else.

2. Maintain a constant relationship with Christ.

3. Control your thoughts.

4. Keep the Romans 5 perspective.

