

Triumphant Living Series

Lesson: **Rejoicing in the Lord**

by Don Maurer, July 26, 2013

Philippians 4:4-9. “Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, Rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.”

1. We are to rejoice in the Lord always. A command, not a suggestion. For emphasis, Paul repeats this. Cf. Galatians 1:8-9. Always, not sometimes. Written from prison.
2. Question: What is the difference between joy, which is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, and pleasure or happiness?
3. Found in Old Testament.
4. Psalm 33:1. Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! For praise from the upright is beautiful.³ We are to rejoice that our names are written in heaven.

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

5. We are(or are able to, by God’s grace), to rejoice in our tribulations and sufferings.

Romans 3:3-5. And not only that, but we also glory in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

2 Corinthians 7:7-10. And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

6. We are to rejoice when we are persecuted.

Luke 6:22-23. “Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you, and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of Man’s sake. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven, for in like manner their fathers did to the prophets.”

7. The best is yet to come.

Psalm 16:11. You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.