

CELEBRATE BY REJOICING

Rejoice: To show great joy and delight



CELEBRATE BY REJOICING

Delight in what?



CELEBRATE BY REJOICING

Ecclesiastes 2

*Pleasures are
meaningless*



I denied myself nothing my eyes desired;
I refused my heart no pleasure.
My heart took delight in all my labour,
and this was the reward for all my toil.
Yet when I surveyed all that my hands
had done and what I had toiled to achieve,
everything was meaningless, a chasing
after the wind; nothing was gained under
the sun.



CELEBRATE BY REJOICING

Philippians 4: 4-8

Rejoice in the Lord always
I will say it again: Rejoice!
Let your gentleness be evident to all
The Lord is near.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything,
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your
requests to God.

And the peace of God, which transcends all
understanding, will guard your hearts
and your minds in Christ Jesus.



CELEBRATE BY REJOICING

Philippians 4: 4-8

Finally, brothers.....

Whatever is true,
Whatever is noble,
Whatever is right,
Whatever is pure,
Whatever is lovely,
Whatever is admirable,

- If anything is excellent or praiseworthy –

Think about such things.



CELEBRATE BY REJOICING

Paul's example in his letter to the Church in Philippi:

- I always pray with joy (1: 3)
- Because of this I rejoice (1: 18)
- I will continue to rejoice (1: 19)
- I am glad and rejoice with all of you (2:17)
- Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord! (3:1)
- Rejoice in the Lord always. (4:4)
- I will say it again: Rejoice! (4:4)
- I rejoice greatly in the Lord (4:10)



CELEBRATE BY REJOICING

But check out the context:

I am in chains...(1: 14)

Struggles ...I had and still have (1: 30)

But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering....(2:17)

Watch out for those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh (3:2)

→ The famous thorn in the flesh (2 Corinthians 12)?

AD 61
Paul is in prison.
Nero had just had the
idea of using Christians
as street lamps or
feeding them to lions



CELEBRATE BY REJOICING

Though the fig tree does not bud and
there be no grapes on the vine,
Though the olive crop fails
and the fields produce no food,
Though there are no sheep in the pen
And no cattle in the stalls.....

Yet I will rejoice in the Lord,
I will be joyful in God my Saviour.

Habakkuk 3: 17-18



CELEBRATE BY REJOICING

2 Corinthians 12: 10

¹⁰ That is why, for Christ's sake, I **delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties.** For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Romans 5: 3-5

but we also **glory in our sufferings**, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.



CELEBRATE BY REJOICING

Ask not.....

“When I can get out of this suffering?”

But.....

“What can I get out of this suffering?”



CELEBRATE BY REJOICING

Prison gives
me a captive
audience!

If I die – no big
deal...I get to be
with the Lord!

Some preachers
have wrong
motives – but at
least the gospel is
preached!

I have learned the
secret of being
content in any and
every situation.



CELEBRATE BY REJOICING



Focus on
Jesus

Then
other
things fall
into
perspective



CELEBRATE BY REJOICING

Paul says, Rejoice in the Lord



PSALM DELIGHTS

Psalm 1

¹ Blessed is the one
who does not walk in
step with the wicked
or stand in the way that
sinners take
or sit in the company
of mockers,
² but whose **delight** is in the
law of the LORD,
and who meditates on
his law day and night.

Psalm 35: 9

Then my soul will rejoice in
the LORD
and **delight** in his
salvation.

Psalm 36:8

They feast on the abundance
of your house;
you give them drink
from your river of **delights**.



PSALM DELIGHTS

Psalm 37: 23

The LORD makes firm the
steps of the one who **delights**
in him;

Psalm 111:2

Great are the works of
the LORD;
they are pondered by
all who **delight** in them.



PSALM 147: IT'S MUTUAL!

¹ Praise the LORD.

How good it is to sing praises to our God,
how pleasant and fitting to praise him!

⁴ He determines the number of the stars
and calls them each by name.

⁵ Great is our Lord and mighty in power;
his understanding has no limit.

¹¹ the LORD delights in those who fear him,
who put their hope in his unfailing
love.



CELEBRATE BY REJOICING

**The Creator of order
The Way, the Truth, the Life
The God of Love
The Prince of Peace
The Defender of widows, orphans, refugees**

Stop and think: What if He wasn't?

