

Celebrating Happiness

How I praise the Lord that you are concerned about me again. I know you have always been concerned for me, but you didn't have the chance to help me. Not that I was ever in need Not that I was in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength. Even so, you have done well to share with me in my present difficulty. As you know, you Philippians were the only ones who gave me financial help when I first brought you the Good News and then traveled on from Macedonia. No other church did this. Even when I was in Thessalonica you sent help more than once. I don't say this because I want a gift from you. Rather, I want you to receive a reward for your kindness. And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus. Now all glory to God our Father forever and ever! Amen. Philippians 4:10-20 (NLT)

Three Keys to Embracing the Joy and Happiness of God in Our Lives:

1) Practice looking for, and celebrating, what God has done.

How I praise the Lord... Philippians 4:10 (NLT)

How I greatly rejoice IN THE LORD... Philippians 4:10 (NIV)

As you know, you Philippians were the only ones who gave me financial help when I first brought you the Good News and then traveled on from Macedonia... I don't say this because I want a gift from you. Rather, I want you to receive a reward for your kindness. Philippians 4:15 & 17(NLT)

2) Practice looking for, and celebrating, what God is doing now.

Even so, you have done well to share with me in my present difficulty. **Philippians 4:14 (NLT)**

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for GREAT JOY. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing. James 1:2-4 (NLT)

3) Practice celebrating others for their role in God's plans for my life.

Rather, I want you to receive a reward for your kindness. Philippians 4:17 (NLT)

Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy,... Philippians 1:3-4 (NLT)

And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus. Now all glory to God our Father forever and ever! Amen. Philippians 4:10-18 (NLT)

Going Deeper on your own: Pastor Jay made the statement that "Celebrating should be a natural part of the life of a believer", do you agree or disagree? Now look up the following passages: Exodus 23:17, Nehemiah 9:10, and Luke chapter 15. Take note of the things that were being celebrated. Now with pen and paper take time to write out those things you could and should celebrate what God has done in and through your life. Set out a plan in which you intentionally build in times of celebration and thanksgiving to God for what He has done and is doing. We have learned weekly that worship is a form of celebration, what can you do to make that a priority? Follow this up by setting aside one day a month specifically for celebration. Also, set aside one day a year to celebrate all the joy He has blessed us with. At Center Point we try to do this once a year during the Thanksgiving season. When you set up these intentional days of celebration, be sure to include the people God has used to bless your life. To get this journey started (just like the apostle Paul did with the Philippians), this intentionally write a letter to someone God has used to bless your life. Share your joy and happiness with them thus bringing happiness to their lives. Write Pastor Jay and tell him what you have done to embrace celebrating the goodness of God.