



“Rejoicing Is A Choice”

Acts 16:16-25; Philippians 4:4-7

There is not a day that goes by that we do not hear or read about some calamity occurring somewhere in the world. Unparalleled weather tragedies are completely destroying cities and towns leaving thousands either dead or homeless. Diseases, with no known cures, are literally consuming human bodies from infants to senior citizens. Homes are being lost, families are breaking up, crime and violence are at an all time high, and seemingly there is no end in sight for all of the unimaginable misfortunes which befall people whether they know the Lord or not.

It is very difficult and, at times, rather impossible to rejoice when all around you circumstances are collapsing. It is rather challenging to find the inner ability to thank or praise God when life appears so unfair. There are moments when it may even appear that a loving God is punishing you for something you did or did not do, even though you remained faithful and obedient to His will. Remember when the children of Israel cried out, “How can we sing a song in a strange land, so we hung our harps on the trees. We just could not rejoice and sing.” It is normal to want to quit, feel sorry for yourself, or just withdraw when circumstances and conditions become negatively overwhelming.

Some advice to help you through during what you may perceive as your darkest moments. These words of encouragement come from the pen of the Apostle Paul when he writes to the congregates at the Church in Philippi. He tells them to “rejoice in the Lord always.” (Philippians 4:4-7). He gives them some tireless counsel, which is extremely helpful for us today if we apply it:

1. Do not be anxious. Do not worry about anything. God is in control.
2. Pray to God about everything and ask Him for the solution to any situation, circumstance, or condition.
3. God has the answer for you during times when you do not feel like rejoicing—just ask!

To understand and appreciate Paul’s sound advice, it is beneficial to study what Paul and Silas had endured in Acts 16:16-25 when they were actively engaged in serving the Lord. These verses clearly demonstrate that when you are doing the will of God that there are unforeseen forces seeking to steal your joy, but remember through it all you have a CHOICE whether to rejoice or not.

When rejoicing in the midst of seemingly impossible odds, you may need to remind yourself that:

1. God will never leave me. – Romans 8:14-15
2. God forgives all of my sins. – Micah 7:18-19; Psalm 103:12
3. Your family will not get rid of you. – Hebrews 2:11
4. You have a future that cannot be taken from you. – John 14:1-3

Across the world people, organizations, governments, and even houses of faith are experiencing difficult financial times. There is no question as to the power, which Satan is wielding at this time. I want you to stand firmly and boldly on the WORD OF GOD knowing and believing that you can choose to rejoice. Why? Because you have surrendered to a God, that has all power in His hand and He LOVES YOU through your difficult days.

Pastor Gerald L. Durley