

Philippians Series

Lesson #088

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Joy: Understanding Biblical Joy

Philippians 4:4–10



Php. 4:2, “I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.

Php. 4:3, “And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life.” [NKJV]

**παρακαλέω *parakaleō*
1 sing pres act indic
“to urge, exhort”**

**φρονέω *phroneō*
pres act infin
“to be wise, to think”**

Php. 4:4, “Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

Php. 4:5, “Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.

Php. 4:6, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

Php. 4:7, “and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Php. 4:8, “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.

Php. 4:9, “The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

Php. 4:10, “But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity.”

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impera

to rejoice; be glad

Present imperatives

indicate a

standard practice

which believers

should have.

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in Php., 4× in John’s epistles,
mostly 2 John, 1× in 3 John, 2× in
Peter, 1 Pet. 4:13**

**1 Pet. 4:13, “but rejoice to the extent
that you partake of Christ’s
sufferings, that when His glory is
revealed, you may also be glad with
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1× in James, in the salutation

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χαρά (*chara*), joy, 24× in the gospels; 4× in Acts ; 31× in the epistles

What the Bible Teaches About

Joy



Joy in the Old Testament

Psa. 5:11, “But let all those rejoice who put their trust in You; Let them ever shout for joy, because You defend them; Let those also who love Your name be joyful in You.”

שָׂמַח (s'āmah), v. joy, glad

שִׂמְחָה (s'āmēah) n. rejoice

רִנָּה-1 rinna-1

comm fem sing

abs

shout of joy

Psa. 30:5, “For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.”

1־רִנָּה *rinna-1*

comm fem sing

abs

shout of joy

Isa. 35:10, “And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing, with everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.”

1־רִנָּה *rinna-1*
shout of joy

שְׂמֵחָה (*s'āmēah*) *n. rejoice*

שִׂשׂוֹן *sason*

comm masc sing abs
joy

Isa. 51:11, “So the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing, with everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness; Sorrow and sighing shall flee away.”

Isa. 44:23, “Sing, O heavens, for the LORD has done it! Shout, you lower parts of the earth; Break forth into singing, you mountains, O forest, and every tree in it! For the LORD has redeemed Jacob, and glorified Himself in Israel.”

Isa. 55:12, “For you shall go out with joy, and be led out with peace; The mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing before you, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.”

Joy in the New Testament

Gospels

1. The response to revelation of God especially at the birth of Jesus.

Luke 1:14, “And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.”

Luke 2:10, “Then the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.’ ”

Matt. 2:10, “When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.”

John 3:29, “He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled.”

At the reception of His Word:

Matt. 13:20, “But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;” Mark 4:16 (only use of *chara* in Mark); Luke 8:13

1 Thess. 2:19, “For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?”

Acts 8:5–8

Also Matt. 13:44

2. The response the angels have in one person who believes the gospel.

Luke 15:10, “Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

3. Joy at the resurrection.

Luke 24:52, “And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy,”

4. As a reference to the eternal joy with the Lord in eternity.

Matt. 25:21, “His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ ” Cf., Matt. 25:23

5. Jesus's teaching in the Upper Room Discourse. Turn to the passage of John 15:

John 15:11, “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.”

πληρόω *pleroo* impf. 3 sg. ἐπλήρου; [1] to fill up, to bring to completion. As in Paul in Php. 2:2, “fulfill my joy by being like minded.”

Context, context, context!

John 15:9, “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.

John 15:10, “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.”

John 15:11, “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain [abide] in you, and that your joy may be full.

John 15:12, “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

John 15:13, “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.

John 15:14, “You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.”

John 15:1, “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

John 15:2, “Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

John 15:3, “You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

John 15:4, “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.”



John 15:5, “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

John 15:6, “If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

John 15:7, “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

John 15:8, “By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.”

John 16:19, “Now Jesus knew that they desired to ask Him, and He said to them, ‘Are you inquiring among yourselves about what I said, “A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me”?’ ”

John 16:20, “Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy.”

John 16:21, “A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world.”

John 16:22, “Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you.”

John 16:23, “And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.”

John 16:24, “Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.”

6. Joy should not be translated with happiness. Happiness is often ephemeral, transitory, it is based on circumstances. Biblical joy might be at times based on circumstances, but underlying it is a stable mentality of tranquility, confidence, certainty, expressed because its foundation and focus is on the eternal God and His promises.

7. This joy is a product of the Holy Spirit.

Gal. 5:22, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Gal. 5:23, “gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”

8. As such we can all have tremendous joy, inner happiness, contentment, tranquility.

2 Cor. 7:4, “Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my boasting on your behalf. I am filled with comfort. I am exceedingly joyful in all our tribulation.”

Rom. 15:13, “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

9. Joy is to be the believer's mental attitude when facing suffering, hardship, hunger, persecution, and the difficulties and adversities of life.

Heb. 12:2, "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

James 1:2, “Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you fall into various tests,

James 1:3, “because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

James 1:4, “But let endurance have its maturing work, that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.

James 1:5, “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”

James 4:7, “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

James 4:8, “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

James 4:9, “Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.

James 4:10, “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.”

Joy is the attitude that the believer fully realizes in maturity, but it is gradually built as he masters the spiritual skills.