

R12.2 Blog | December 2025

Season of Joy: How can we rejoice always?

“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!”
~ Philippians 4:4¹ ~

In his letter to the Philippians, the Apostle Paul speaks about joy and about the Christian’s duty to rejoice repeatedly. For example, he writes, “Rejoice in the Lord always” (4:4a). This is one of those biblical imperatives, and it leaves no room for not rejoicing, for Paul says Christians are to rejoice always—not sometimes, periodically, or occasionally. He then adds, “Again I will say, rejoice” (4.4b). Paul wrote this epistle from prison, and in it he addresses very somber matters, such as the possibility that he will be martyred, poured out as a sacrifice (2:17). Yet he tells the Philippian believers that they should rejoice despite his circumstances.

That brings us back to the question of how we can be joyful as a matter of discipline or of the will. How is it possible to remain joyful all the time? Paul gives us the key: “*Rejoice in the Lord always.*” The key to the Christian’s joy is its source, which is the Lord. If Christ is in me and I am in Him, that relationship is not a sometimes-experience. The Christian is always in the Lord and the Lord is always in the Christian, and that is always a reason for joy. Even if the Christian cannot rejoice in his circumstances, if he finds himself passing through pain, sorrow, or grief, he still can rejoice in Christ. We rejoice in the Lord, and since He never leaves us or forsakes us, we can rejoice always.²

Joy to the World:

This is the season of **Joy**. Jesus is born. God had manifested his great strategy to defeat Satan and reconcile the world to Himself. The battle is not over yet, but the end has been determined. Praise God!

Mat 2:10 “When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great **joy**!”

¹ All scripture is NKJV unless otherwise noted

² Content credited to R.C. Sproul

Do we have “exceedingly great **joy**” about a sign of Jesus? A sign could be the bible, answered prayer, a personal victory over sin, provision, family, etc. Do we have **joy** in our life? Do we rejoice exceedingly? What would this look like for us?

Here is what the word **joy** means: *cheerfulness, that is, calm delight: - gladness (Total KJV occurrences: 59 times)*

Here is the song we sing at Christmas to rejoice exceedingly...

Joy to the world! The Lord is come
Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing
Joy to the world! the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods
Rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding **joy**
Repeat the sounding **joy**
Repeat, repeat the sounding **joy**

Bible's commentary on how to have joy:

- ⇒ Luk 15:10 Likewise, I say to you, there is **joy** in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.
- ⇒ Luk 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.
- ⇒ Joh 15:11 These things I have spoken to you, that My **joy** may remain in you, and *that* your **joy** may be full.

- ⇒ Joh 16:24 Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your **joy** may be full.
- ⇒ Gal 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, **joy**, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Applications:

- Are you declaring **joy** in your life? Let us declare our **joy** this season and the coming year.
- We can't make the world joyful but we can experience **joy** within ourselves and pray we infect others. Be a "**joyful**" influence this season.

Verses for your review and for your **joy**:

- 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.
- Luk 1:14 And you will have **joy** and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.
- Luk 1:44 For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for **joy**.
- Luk 24:52-53 And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great **joy**, and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.
- Joh 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.
- Joh 17:13 But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My **joy** fulfilled in themselves.

And many more...

We do have a lot to be joyful about and celebrate...

Christmas is a time of **joy**. But the noise level in the world is so high it is hard for us to hear the voice of God.