

God with Us: Got Joy?

Wylie Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – December 15, 2024

Philippians 4:4-8, 12-13

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 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. 9-11... 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

The Secret of Great Joy is to...

1. PRAISE GOD SACRIFICIALLY

Philippians 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

Hebrews 13:15

Through Jesus, ... let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise-the fruit of lips that confess his name.

The Secret of Great Joy is to...

2. REPLACE WORRY WITH PRAYER & THANKSGIVING

Philippians 4:6

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

1 Peter 5:7

Cast all your anxiety upon him, because he cares for you.

The Secret of Great Joy is...

3. GODLY THINKING

Philippians 4:8

... 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.

2 Corinthians 10:5

... take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

- I KNOW THAT GOD LOVES ME.

1 John 3:16

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.

- I KNOW THAT GOD IS WITH ME.

Hebrews 13:5

God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

- I KNOW THAT GOD WANTS GOOD THINGS FOR ME.

Romans 8:28,

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Great Joy results in...

4. GOD'S INCOMPREHENSIBLE PEACE & STRENGTH

Philippians 4:7

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

Philippians 4:13

I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

Nehemiah 8:10 "...the joy of the Lord is your strength."