

March 21, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

Phil. 4:4 *Rejoice in the LORD always. I will say it again: Rejoice!* (NIV)

In this season, when we tend to celebrate the resurrection more than other times, I am reminded that one of the greatest things we can do is to rejoice. What does it mean to rejoice? Literally, it means to be very, very glad. I can tell you that I am very, very glad that Jesus paid the price for my sins upon the cruel cross of Calvary. I'm glad because He loved me so much that He was willing to lay down His life for me. All of my sins were like filthy rags, but He washed me as white as snow. There is nothing that should bring us more joy than realizing that we have been set free from the bondage of sin and we are able to live in the freedom of the Spirit of God.

But, I wonder if you noticed the one word that makes this verse so very important. It is the word: always. The Greek word is **pantote** which means *at all times, always and everywhere*. I wonder how we are doing on our rejoice meter? Does it rise from time to time? Does it peak and then drop to a low state? Does it look like the images on an electro-cardiogram? Paul says that we are to rejoice ALWAYS; at all times; and everywhere. He even repeats himself for emphasis. Why is this so critical for us? I believe it is because of what Nehemiah stated in **Neh. 8:10** *Nehemiah said, "God and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our LORD. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.*

Do you want strength to face the troubles of the day? Rejoice in the LORD. Do you want to be able to overcome the things that so easily drag you down? Rejoice in the LORD. We need to be people that rejoice always because of what He has done for us. We need to be people who shine the joy of our LORD so that people can be drawn to Him.

Dear LORD, help us to rejoice, even in the tough times. Help us to realize that nothing in this world could be so bad that You couldn't handle it. Help us to find our true joy in You. In Jesus Name, Amen