



NEW COVENANT CHURCH

# Joy of the Lord

## Four Essentials to Joyful Living

*"I have the strength to face all conditions by the power that Christ gives me."*

Philippians 4:13 GNT

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## Psalm 16:11 NIV

*You have made known to me the path of life;  
you will fill me with **joy in your presence**,  
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.*

## **Isaiah 9:2-4** (also spoken by Jesus Matthew 4:15-17)

*The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a **light has shined**. You have multiplied the nation **And increased its joy**; They rejoice before You **according to the joy of harvest, as men rejoice** when they divide the spoil.*

- It is a unique characteristic of the Lord to provide joy and going from strength to strength.
- JOY is not an emotion like happiness.
- Joy is the knowledge and disposition of being in the will of God

# Rejoicing is Your Strength to Strength

**Philippians 3:1 (NLT)**

*Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, **rejoice in the Lord**. I never get tired of telling you these things, and **I do it to safeguard your faith.***

## Philippians 1:12

*But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the **furtherance** of the gospel, 13 so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; 14 and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.*

## Philippians 1:15

*Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill: 16 The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains; 17 but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel. 18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.*

## Philippians 1:19

*For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, **20 according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.***



## Philippians 1:21

*For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 But if I live on in the flesh, **this will mean fruit from my labor**; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. 23 For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. 24 Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.*

## **Philippians 1:25**

*And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith,*

# The Four Essentials to Joyful Living

## 1. PERSPECTIVE

Your problems are managed by how you are looking at those problems. The way you look at that problem is much more important than the problem. Your perspective makes the difference. **God always empowers ADVANCE.**

# The Four Essentials to Joyful Living

**1. PERSPECTIVE** - Paul's bonds destroyed barriers

*v. 13 "It has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that **my chains are in Christ**; 14 and most of the brethren in the Lord, having **become confident by my chains**, are much more bold to speak the word without fear."*

# The Four Essentials to Joyful Living

## 1. PERSPECTIVE

The word Paul uses for the “furtherance” (**advancement**) of the Gospel is *prokope*, (GSN4297). It is used for the progress of an army or an expedition. It is the noun from the verb *prokoptein* (GSN4298), which means to **cut down in advance**. It is the verb which is used for cutting away the trees and the undergrowth, and removing the barriers which would hinder the progress of an army

# The Four Essentials to Joyful Living

## 2. PRIORITY

When things get tough I need to know what's really important in order to distinguish the trivial from the significant. I can be living my life either based on **problems or priorities**. Either you'll decide what's important in your life or you'll let other people decide what's important.

# The Four Essentials to Joyful Living

## 2. PRIORITY

Vv. 15-16, *ome indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill: 16 The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains; 17 but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel. 18 What then? Only that in every way, whether **in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached;** and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.*

# The Four Essentials to Joyful Living

## 3. POWER

I need strength (power) to make it, to keep on going. Life can wear you out. Life can drain you completely. One crisis after another can drain you. You lose your energy and your power. You need a fresh power supply.

*Phil. 4:13 "I have the strength to face all conditions by the power that Christ gives me."*



# The Four Essentials to Joyful Living

## 3. POWER

Verse 19: *"I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me **will turn out for my deliverance. I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed.**"*

# The Four Essentials to Joyful Living

## 4. PURPOSE

Paul is old and tired and has been in prison for four years. He's ready to go on to heaven. They've taken every single thing from him -- friends, ministry, freedom, privacy. They've taken every thing from him except the one thing that cannot be taken from you and that is **a purpose to live for.**

# The Four Essentials to Joyful Living

## 4. PURPOSE

V. 21 *"For me to live is Christ and to die is gain."*

He's not suicidal but he's anticipating death. He's not afraid of dying. Death is just on to better things, out of the prison. *"But while I'm here," he says, "I have a purpose for living."* How would you fill in the blank? **For me to live is \_\_\_\_\_.**

Paul had a long term goal. He looked at things in the light of eternity.

*Phil. 3:13-14 "Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."*

Only a fool would go all through life unprepared for something he knows will eventually happen

***V. 20, "...In nothing I shall be ashamed."***