

June 17, 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)

Are you rejoicing today? First of all, let's be clear about what rejoicing means. The Greek word used is **chairete** which means *to be exceedingly full of gladness and joy*. This is not something that naturally comes from within us. Because we live in a fallen world where there are continually struggles and trials, our first reaction is not joy. In fact, most people without the LORD in their lives, look at this world with gloom and disdain. There has never been more depression and oppression than there is right now.

What can we as Christians do? We must, and let me emphasize this strongly, live with the fullness of joy in our lives. Paul had been facing some opposition and also incarceration for preaching the good news. He was sharing the only hope that anyone in this world really has. And in the midst of this, he had been accused, accosted, arrested and advised to stop preaching in the name of Jesus. But Paul would not stop. He would continue until his earthly life was taken by the Roman government. How could he do what he was doing? He explains it in **Phil. 4:11-13 *I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 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. I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.*** (NIV)

When we abide in Him, we have the full assurance that He will meet our every need. We can walk in faith and trust that He will provide. He will always be with us. He will show us what we are to do. This is the point of rejoicing because we don't have to come up with something because He has laid out His plan for our lives. Our joy comes in following that plan and bringing glory to the Father.

Dear LORD, thank You that the joy of the LORD is our strength. Help us to abide in such a way that we see and follow Your plan for us. We can face anything because You are the One Who gives us our strength. In Jesus Name, Amen