

I SAY IT AGAIN, “REJOICE” / *Philippians 3:1*

Paul used forms of the words “joy” and “rejoice” several times in his letter:

1. He referred to believers and their progress in the faith as a cause for joy, particularly those he had led to Christ.

Philippians 2:2 Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one heart and purpose.

Colossians 2:5 For though I am far away from you, my heart is with you. And I am very happy because you are living as you should and because of your strong faith in Christ.

1 Thessalonians
2:19-20 After all, what gives us hope and joy, and what is our proud reward and crown? It is you! Yes, you will bring us much joy as we stand together before our Lord Jesus when he comes back again. For you are our pride and joy.

(See also Romans 15:32; 16:19; 2 Corinthians 1:24; 7:9, 16; 13:9; Philippians 1:3-5, 25; 4:1; Philemon 7)

2. Many times, Christian joy comes as a result of suffering for Christ. Although it is difficult to grasp this concept, knowing that God is working in salvation produces this joy.

Philippians 2:17-18 But even if my life is to be poured out like a drink offering to complete the sacrifice of your faithful service (that is, if I am to die for you), I will rejoice, and I want to share my joy with all of you. And you should be happy about this and rejoice with me.

Colossians 1:11-12 We also pray that you will be strengthened with his glorious power so that you will have all the patience and endurance you need. May you be filled with joy, always thanking the Father, who has enabled you to share the inheritance that belongs to God's holy people, who live in the light.

Colossians 1:24 I am glad when I suffer for you in my body, for I am completing what remains of Christ's sufferings for his body, the church.

(See also Romans 12:12-15; 1 Corinthians 8:2; 2 Corinthians 6:4-10)

3. Joy is ultimately a gift of the Holy Spirit, not something we can produce in ourselves. It comes as a result of God's love for us.

Romans 14:17 For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13 So I pray that God, who gives you hope, will keep you happy and full of peace as you believe in him. May you overflow with hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:22 But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness.

1 Thessalonians 1:6 So you received the message with joy from the Holy Spirit in spite of the severe suffering it brought you. In this way, you imitated both us and the Lord.