

First Response - Rejoice!

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

I have to be honest! I find this verse very hard sometimes. To always rejoice is difficult because from our view and perspective we have many things that come our way that do not call for a rejoicing response!

You know what I am talking about, don't you?

- What has come your way recently that you did rejoice in?
- What has come your way recently that you did not rejoice! Share your response.

I have come out of a difficult season in my life where there were a number of things troubling me! They are personal and so I am not at liberty to share them in print. But I will share this with you – This particular season had found me grumbling, complaining and just plain unhappy. And the more I grumbled the worse it got.

One day, I came across this verse – again – and was convicted by the responses of the previous 18 months and began a conscious lifestyle of rejoicing always. Immediately things began to change. The bible says,

Seek first the kingdom of God and all these things (all the things that worry you) will be added unto you. (Matthew 6:33)

For example – the other day I was signing my daughter up at a small trade school and found that I make too much money to get help from the government for my children's education. I also found that this particular school does not take student loans. I am going to have to pay as I go and it is only a 12 month school it's a bit hit every month. It's money we do not have.

This would ordinarily launch me into a season of great worry. But instead, I rejoiced! This is how I did it – I praised God! I thanked Him for the opportunity He was giving us to trust in His provision and to see Him provide for every need for the next few months. When I got home my daughter was upset. So in the kitchen, my wife, my daughter and I prayed! Thanking God for this great opportunity to see the hand of God in our lives. I believe God is going to provide!

- What are the things you worry about most?
- Name it! And now in front of the group praise God for it using the same kind of pattern of prayer in the above paragraph.

For the rest of your time look at the following verses and rejoice together!

1. Rejoice that Your name is Recorded in Heaven!

Luke 10:20 "Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven."

- Because You are in relationship with the Lord!
- Because Your Future is Certain!
- Because Your Salvation is Secure!
- Someone share How God saved you and what your life has been like since!

2. Rejoice In the Great Things He Has Done!

Luke 13:17 As He said this, all His opponents were being humiliated; and the entire crowd was rejoicing over all the glorious things being done by Him.

- What are the great things that God has done or doing in your life?

3. Rejoice In Your Children Walking in the Truth!

3 John 4 I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.

4. Rejoice In The Day!

Psalms 118:24 This is the day which the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.