

# “Rejoice in the Lord Always”

## I. Introduction

A. The Holy Spirit through the apostle Paul commands Christians to “rejoice in the Lord always.” Consider some things Scripture teaches connected to this theme. **Philippians 4:4**

## II. “Rejoice”

A. The word, “rejoice” indicates that a deep, permanent sense of joy can (and should) be in the heart of God’s children.

**Philippians 4:4a**

B. This joy is connected to an attitude of gratitude. Instead of murmuring against God, the Christian has great reason be thankful, recognizing the comparative value of the blessings He bestows on us, and how undeserving we are of these blessings.

**1 Corinthians 15:57; 10:10**

## III. “In the Lord”

A. The opportunity to rejoice always is found “in the Lord.”

**Philippians 4:4b**

B. The blessings God bestows on His children far outweigh anything the world can offer. While these blessings are offered to all, they are received by those who are “in Christ.”

**Ephesians 1:3ff**

## IV. “Always”

A. While joy that is based on earthly things comes and goes with changes in circumstances, the deeper joy available in the Lord is not contingent on temporal things going our way.

**Philippians 4:4c; 1 Thessalonians 5:16, 18**

## V. In Persecutions

A. For instance, joy in the Lord is something the faithful can have even when facing persecutions. In fact, persecutions for Christ’s sake provide a particular reason for rejoicing. **Matthew 5:11-12; Acts 5:41; 1 Peter 4:13**

## VI. In Various Trials

A. More generally, there is reason to rejoice in the Lord in the midst of any trials. One reason for this is for the help trials can give us in becoming more pleasing to Him.

**James 1:2-3; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10**

## VII. For Opportunities to Serve

A. In good times and bad, Christians have opportunities to glorify God and serve others. This exemplifies the basis we have for rejoicing in Him. **Philippians 2:17-18**

## VIII. For Others’ Fruitfulness

A. Beyond this, there is reason to rejoice for *others’* service to God. The salvation of others, and the fruitfulness borne by others for the Lord, are further reasons for always rejoicing. **Luke 15:7; Philippians 4:10**

## IX. For the Hope of Heaven

A. Moreover, the faithful in Christ always have reason for rejoicing for the hope of eternal life in heaven God graciously gives His children. **Matthew 5:12; 1 Peter 4:13**

## X. Conclusion

A. While all experience times of sorrow, there is at the same time always reason for those in Christ to have a sense of joy. **Luke 2:10-11; Philippians 4:4**