

The Joy Of Being A Christian

Galatians 5:22; Philippians 4:4

Not Dependant On Outward Circumstances

- Hebrews who were persecuted. Hebrews 10:32-34
- Apostles rejoiced. Acts 5:41
- Paul and Silas in prison. Acts 16:25; 1 Thessalonians 2:2
- Paul about to be executed. 2 Timothy 4:6-8
- Joy and suffering are related. Matthew 5:11-12; 1 Peter 4:12-16

Those Who Make "Joy" Dependant Upon Circumstances Are Not Finding It

- Solomon. Ecclesiastes 2:3-11
- Moses. cf. Hebrews 11:25
- The Rich man. Luke 12:15-21

John 16:22

"And ye therefore now have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no one taketh away from you."

What Gives A Christian Such Joy?

- The promises of God. 2 Peter 1:4; Psalms 33:21; Romans 5:2; cf. Romans 12:12; Romans 15:13
 - "I will in no wise fail thee, neither will I in any wise forsake thee." Hebrews 13:5
- Our names are written in heaven. Luke 10:20
 - Rejoice "In the Lord." Philippians 3:1; 4:4
 - ... "I bring you tidings of great joy." Luke 2:10
- The word of God. Psalms 1:2; Psalms 19:8,10; Psalms 119:14, 16, 111, 162, 165
 - Preaching of Philip in Samaria. Acts 8:4-8
 - Preaching of Philip to the Eunuch. Acts 8:39

What Gives A Christian Such Joy?

- Fellowship of the saints. Philippians 1:3-4
 - Thankfulness with joy is viewed as the undertone of the Philippian letter. 1:18,25; 2:17,18,28,29; 3:1; 4:1,4,10
 - Paul thanked God for his brethren. Romans 1:8; 1 Corinthians 1:4; Philemon 4
 - "We give thanks..." Colossians 1:3; 1 Thessalonians 1:2; 2 Thessalonians 1:3
 - We should rejoice at the anticipation of being with our brethren. 1 Thessalonians 3:6-9; Philemon 7

What Does This Mean To The Christian?

- Count it all joy... James 1:2-4
- Produces joy and cultivates patience. Hebrews 10:32-34
- Run the race with patience. Hebrews 12:2
- See 2 Corinthians 11:23-28; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18; Romans 8:18; 1 Peter 1:8; 1 Peter 4:13; Jude 24
- Only until we see the unseen, will this lasting joy become a reality. Only in the Lord. Phil. 4:4

Conclusion:

- ❖ The joy of being a Christian far outweighs all of the world's adversities and makes our lives rich, full and satisfying.