

Freedom In Joy

1 Thessalonians 5:16

“Be Joyful always”

What does that look like?! First, notice the writer didn't say “Be happy always.”

We can be happy about something and the next minute be annoyed buy that same thing. We go from, [Look at our baby boy playing the drums on the pots and pans; he's going to be musical. Fast forward 10 minutes later, we're saying will you stop doing that, I'm about to go crazy!!!]

Don't get me wrong, I love to be happy! It beats being annoyed, depressed, angry, and frustrated.

- So, why did the Bible say “Be joyful always?” Because your happiness can be taken away. True Joy comes from the Lord. It comes from an understanding that we were once lost and had no hope. The prognosis of our outcome was bleak. The Bible says “We were dead in our sins.” Eph. 2:1-10.
- Our happiness depends on our works but the source of our Joy is based on the finished work of Christ!! Notice vs. 9 “Not by works so that no one can boast.” God knows that by nature we are lovers of ourselves.
- So Joy is not based on a feeling but rather knowledge and an acceptance of a finished work from Christ Jesus.
- So how are we maintaining our Joy? How are we supposed to be “joyful always?”
- By remembering what Christ has done for us!! We can have convenient memory loss when things don't go our way. Example: Let's say that you take your son on a trip to Six Flags. You let him ride every ride he wants to,

as many times as he wants to. You let him eat everything he wants to. Hotdogs, cotton candy. He plays every game there. Everything he points at he gets!! Finally at the end of the day he is so dead on his feet that he can't walk himself back to the car so you have to carry him. On the way home you stop for gas and your son gets out of the car and goes inside with you to pay for the gas when something catches your boy's attention. You hear these sweet words as you're paying for the gas, "Dad can I have a 50 cent tattoo from the vending machine?" You say know and he proceeds to tell you how you never let him have anything and that you never let him go anywhere!!!!" MEMORY LOSS IS A KILLER OF YOUR JOY!!!!

- It is important to remember what the Lord has done you!!! When you are feeling like blaming God for not coming through because you don't understand what is happening in your life right now, try to stop and remember the mighty works he has done in your life.
- May be you are saying, Pastor He hasn't done any mighty works in my life. Then I would say to you, take your hands off of your life and get out of the way and let him work!!
- Listen to this: 1 Chro. 16:11-12/ Ps. 63:6-7/ Isaiah 46:8-10/ 2Timothy 1:8,14
- Last but not least. Remember that He is working for your behalf. Ps 18:1-17