

Choose JOY

Sunday, July 8, 2018 Pastor Ray Cummings

James 1:2 (ESV)

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,

Part 1 – Only You can Choose!

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 and Philippians 4:4 (ESV)

1. Three Principles towards the Right Choice

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (ESV)

16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

A. Be Joyful

(vs. 16)

Rejoice always,

Lewis Smedes writes,

"You and I were created for joy, and if we miss it, we miss the reason for our existence!"

B. Be Prayerful

(vs. 17)

pray without ceasing,

Warren Wiersbe said,

"We are to keep the receiver off the hook and be in touch with God so that our praying is part of a long conversation that is never broken."

John Wesley said,

"God does nothing except in answer to prayer."

C. Be Thankful

(vs. 18)

give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Romans 8:28 (ESV)

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

2. One Perspective that helps you Choose

Philippians 4:4 (ESV)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

Philippians 4:4 (NLT)

Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice!

A. Because of Who Jesus is

John 14:9 (ESV)

Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

Exodus 3:13-14 (ESV)

13 Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?"
14 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

B. Because of What Christ has done

Romans 5:8 (ESV)

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Luke 10:20 (ESV)

Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."