

*Therefore be imitators
of God, as beloved
children;*

Ephesians 5:1

Store In My Heart

Psalms 55:22

*Cast your burden upon the Lord
and He will sustain you; He will
never allow the righteous to be
shaken.*

This is a verse that can give us much comfort. No matter the difficulty we might need to overcome, the Lord is with us to help us through. His protection and care are always available to those who belong to Him. David put his trust in the Lord and was able to deal with several difficulties. Even when he brought difficulty upon himself through sin, David knew that if he would return to God, it could be overcome.

We must recognize that this level of care and help is only available to the righteous. Those who are devoted to following the commands and teaching of God can always depend upon the Lord to help us with any difficulty. Let us give our all in His service.

Trust in the Lord for He is always with us to help.



"Again I Will Say, Rejoice!"

Dan Henderson

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."
(Philippians 4:4-7)

There Ira F. Stanphill wrote a song in line with the teaching of this passage that ends with the phrase "Happiness is the Lord!" The first verse of that song says, "Happiness is to know the Savior, Living a life within His favor, Having a change in my behavior, Happiness is the Lord." I encourage you to find a copy and learn it if you do not already know it. I have found through the years that songs help me remember things. Just keep in mind that the songs are not Scripture. We need to know the Words of God that contain the teaching found in song.

Like most teaching, Paul states the purpose or goal then gives instruction on achieving that goal. Joy is what we are to gain. More specifically, joy in the Lord. That is because true joy cannot be found outside of Christ. Left to our own methods we may find bits and pieces of joy or happiness. A few fleeting moments when things are peaceful and bright that quickly are overridden by suffering, doubt or fear. If we want lasting joy, we are going to need some help from one greater than self. That is why Paul continues with how to accomplish our goal.

First, we need to be near to the Lord. Scripture tells us that God is with us if we are with Him. When we submit to God, we can have confidence that He will abide within us and is ready to help in all avenues of life.
"The Lord is near."

Now that we are confident in the Lord's presence in our life, we can take advantage of that blessing. Paul tells us that we should never carry our load alone. We ought to use prayer to give our concerns to God. Peter, like Paul in this passage, tells us to cast all our anxieties on God, because he cares for us (**1Peter 5:6-7**). God is near and He desires to help us to attain joy in our relationship with Him.

Doubt and fear, which make up a major portion of our anxieties, are obstacles to rejoicing. They make it difficult to find joy and peace. When

we can successfully lay those concerns on God, we can find joy and happiness even the midst of chaos. Too often we let doubt and fear control us and we are miserable because of it.

Understand that this is not just speaking the words in our prayer. It must be an attitude of our mind. We must learn to truly let God take control. If we learn to let God control our life, we can find joy and peace. We used to see a bumper sticker from time to time that said, "God is my copilot." Someone thought that was a fantastic idea, to remind people that God was helping them guide their life. The problem with that idea is who is in charge. If God is your copilot, you are still trying to direct your own life, and you will continue to be burdened with the doubt and fear that robs you of joy and peace. We need to get out of the command chair and let Jesus take control. We are the subject, not the King.

Now this kind of surrender can only come when we are confident of God's willingness and power to guide us through the dangers of life. Such confidence will only come with knowledge and experience. Consider an example:

There are not a lot of people with whom I feel comfortable riding. I would rather be in control of the vehicle myself. I can ride easily with my wife though because I have knowledge and experience to give me confidence in her ability. Others, with whom I have little experience, can make me uncomfortable in the passenger seat. The more I learn about someone the easier it is to just ride along.

Now apply that idea to letting God take control of our life. How can I gain experience and knowledge of God? The only way for me to learn of Him is through what He has revealed, His Word. If we want to rejoice always, we must spend time in the Word learning about God and what He has already done for us. The more we know about God the easier it will be to let Him be in control of our life. Spending time in The Word will allow us to give Him our worries and concerns thus bringing His peace to guard us. When we can do this, we will find joy.

When we go back to the early part of this passage, we find Paul tells us that our attitude toward others will reflect this joy and peace. We will find it easier to be gentle with our fellow man. When we are at peace and able to rejoice in what God has provided, we are better at interacting with others in a kind and generous manner. Fear and doubt cause us to be stingy and abrupt. The joy and peace found in letting God take control frees us from such things and we are ready and willing to assist and guide others to what we have found.

Fill your mind with the Word of God and *"Rejoice in the Lord always."*

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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The
CHURCH OF CHRIST
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

For Our Information

Shannon Soliday is scheduled for a heart cath procedure on Friday.

Sue Soliday has been dealing with an ear infection.

Jim Soliday received a good report from his cardiologist last week.

JoBeth Henderson starts immunotherapy this Tuesday.

David Laubach is recovering from a recent procedure on his toe.

Leta Rivera should be moved to Hot Springs Country Club Village Retirement Community.

Tommy Robinson passed away late Friday evening. Keep **Bill Venable** and the family in your prayers.

Sunday @ 5 - **Jeremiah 6:16** Wednesday @ 7 - **Luke 3:7**