

# REJOICING

## PHILIPPIANS 4:4

BACKGROUND: Rejoice is a variant form for the word joy, which is the major theme of Philippians. James Montgomery Boice, Philippians: An Expository Commentary p. 235. Stoicism is repression of emotions and is not the teaching here. See Acts 17:18, fn 17:18.

***IT BEGINS*** by knowing Jesus in an intimate and personal way. Joy and rejoicing spring from time alone with God in His Word, fellowshiping with other believers in small groups, and worshipping Him together in church. (**Philippians 4:4, fn 4:4-5, Philippians 3:1, fn 3:1, Acts 5:41-42, fn 5:41, fn 5:42, Philippians 3:7-9, fn 3:9-10, John 16:20-27, fn 16:23-27**) *How does your time alone in God's Word and your fellowship with others in your small group help you to rejoice in your relationship with Jesus?*

***I PRACTICE IT*** by faith with a heart full of thankfulness. I receive and rejoice in God's supernatural fruit of the Spirit; and as I receive, I, in His power, give to others. (**Philippians 4:4, fn 4:4, Philippians 3:17, fn 3:17, Galatians 5:22-23, fn 5:22-23, Hebrews 11:6**) *How could you practice rejoicing throughout your day?*

***IT BEGINS AGAIN*** daily as I press on in resurrection power to know my Lord and **experience** His presence. I am assured by His Spirit that He will continue to be my constant companion and friend. No matter what struggles I encounter, He will stay with me. I rejoice, knowing I am His and He is mine! (**Philippians 4:4, James 1:2, fn 1:2, Philippians 3:9-14, fn 3:9-10, Ephesians 1:13-18, fn 1:16-17, John 15:9-12, fn 15:11**) *Why is it important for you to spend time alone with Jesus and fellowship in your small group to continue to rejoice in the Lord?*

*Are you taking time to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit with the Living Word teaching you and giving you His joy, His love, and His peace?*

