



## Word Study on "Joy"

**Joy** – happiness, enjoyment, gladness

Please read Philippians 2:1-18 and answer the following nine questions:

[A] Phl 2:1-2 What does Paul ask be done to make his joy complete? \_\_\_\_\_

[B] Phl 2:3-4 Who are we to regard more important? \_\_\_\_\_

[C] Phl 2:5-7 Whose attitude are we to imitate? \_\_\_\_\_

[D] Phl 2:8 How obedient was Jesus to God's will? \_\_\_\_\_

[E] Phl 2:9-11 How high is the name of Jesus Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

[F] Phl 2:12-13 Who is at work in us? \_\_\_\_\_

[G] Phl 2:14-16 We are to do all things without what? \_\_\_\_\_

[H] Phl 2:17 Even though things were bad for Paul he still did what? \_\_\_\_\_

[I] Phl 2:18 What did Paul ask Philippians to do? \_\_\_\_\_

[J] In Philippians 4:8-13 Paul exhorts his readers to rejoice regardless of circumstances. He gives them some hints how they can do this and promises them something if they do what he says. How can we rejoice even in bad times and what are we promised if we do?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
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[K] Philippians 4:8. Give an example of each of these:

Something true - \_\_\_\_\_

Something honorable - \_\_\_\_\_

Something righteous - \_\_\_\_\_

Something pure - \_\_\_\_\_

Something lovely - \_\_\_\_\_

Something good to hear - \_\_\_\_\_

Something excellent - \_\_\_\_\_

Something worthy of praise - \_\_\_\_\_

-----"JOY" ANSWERS -----

- [A] What does Paul ask be done to make his joy complete? Unity "... being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose."
- [B] Who are we to regard more important? One another
- [C] Whose attitude are we to imitate? Christ Jesus
- [D] How obedient was Jesus to God's will? Obedient to death
- [E] How high is the name of Jesus Christ? Above all the others
- [F] Who is at work in us? God
- [G] We are to do all things without what? Grumbling or Disputing
- [H] Even though things were bad for Paul he still did what? Rejoiced and shared his joy
- [I] What did Paul ask Philippians to do? Rejoice and share their joy Implying we should do so regardless of our circumstances. (See also 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

[J] We are to pray with thanksgiving. In order to be truly thankful and avoid worry we are to think about the truth, what is honorable, what is right, what is pure, what is beautiful, what good news we hear, anything excellent, and anything worthy of praise. If we focus our attention on these things we won't have time to worry, complain, gripe, or grumble and the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus.

**For further thought:**

(k) Is it easy or hard to think of examples of things to "dwell on" from Philippians 4:8. If it was easy, why? If it was hard, what are you going to do to change that for yourself in the future?

(l) Is joy a feeling or an attitude?

(m) Which of these choices or actions might lead to joy?

- Deciding to be satisfied
- Deciding to be delighted with your circumstances
- Discovering the good in others
- Admiring God's creation
- Enjoying music
- Deciding to be pleased with the entertainment you have

What actions or choices could you add to this list?

Which of these decisions have you made or which of these actions have you taken?

(n) In 1 Thessalonians 1:6 what does "joy of the Holy Spirit" mean? In Rom 14:17 what does "joy in the Holy Spirit" mean? What is the difference?

(o) In Acts 13:52 "the disciples were continually filled with joy." Are you? If so, please explain how you do that to your classmates. If not, what are you going to do to change it?

(p) In Galatians 5:22 the second fruit of the Spirit mentioned is "joy." Is this placement right after "love" (which is greatest according to 1 Corinthians 13:13) significant?

(q) According to Rom 15:13 it makes it clear that joy is something God might give us as an answer to prayer. Are you praying for it?

(r) Use a concordance to look up the words "rejoice" and/or "joy." The word "joy" appears over 200 times in the Bible and the word "rejoice" almost as many times. Read and discuss some of these.