

## Parents that Have Joy | Peaceful Parenting, Part 2

### I. An Overview of Philippians 4

- Verses 4-6: a list of Peace Prerequisites
- Verse 7: The First Peace Promise
- Verse 8: More Peace Prerequisites
- Verse 9: The Second Peace Promise

### II. The First Peace Prerequisite

- “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!”
- Find your eternal source of happiness in God; and let me repeat, find your joy in God!
- The Need for Repetition
  - I love when God – in His divine wisdom – finds it necessary to remind us of something **right after He told us about it the first time**. Why does He do this?
  - I know why He does this with me – *because I’m stupid*. I’m like a dog that returns to my own disgusting vomit-like way parenting through my self-worship. This is why He tells us twice in the same verse; we fail at rejoicing in God repeatedly throughout the day. Have you ever read something in the Scriptures that brings such joy to your soul only to walk away minutes later and have your joy disappear in light of an unplanned conflict between your kids?
  - This is why we need the reminder.
- The Need for Generalities
  - In God’s economy, when He says “always” and “never,” He means it.
  - We’re to find our sole source of joy and happiness in *nothing other than God*. And we’re to do it *all of the time*.
  - **John Goetsch** said, “*Joy is the flag that is flown from the castle of the heart when the King is in residence there.*”
  - If you live for yourself, joy cannot take up residence there. The life of a selfish person is constantly being attacked by the circumstances and individuals around him that don’t really care about his goals. But a heart dedicated to Christ knows that things don’t have to go our way in order to have joy and contentment.
  - Verses like this and the passage that tells us to “*pray without ceasing*” frequently lead people to think that unless one lives merely monastic, you cannot be spiritual. But **John Piper** rightly made the observation: “*For the gospel-liberated mind, all joy in created things is seamless with joy in God.*”
- You see, we needn’t spend every waking-minute reading the Bible, we just need do three things:
  - Learn what God says by reading and studying His Word.
  - Remember what God says when we’re not reading it.
  - And apply what God says to our current situation.

*“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!”*

*Philippians 4:4*

AMBrewster

- I. **Point One**
  - Explanation



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