

SINGLE ALLIANCE

Fullness of Joy

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I. Introduction

A. I want to talk about something that is under attack today. It is foundational to our lives. It is not democracy, freedom of speech, or anything external. It is more foundational than these.

B. Our personal joy is under attack by the enemy of our souls. More and more people and even Christians are losing their joy today.

C. **Neh. 8:10**- the joy of the Lord is your strength. Many have no strength to face the demands of their daily lives because they have no joy.

D. **John 15:11**- Jesus has fullness of joy and it can be in you.

E. **Ps. 40:8**- Doing the will of God brings delight or fullness of joy

F. I want to look at the "book of joy" - Philippians - and see how we can have fullness of joy. There are seven areas Paul brings out in Philippians in which we are to do the will of God, and if we do them, we will have joy. All seven need to be present in our lives for **fullness** of joy. Seven is the number of fullness or completion.

G. Each one of the seven areas leads you and empowers you to do the next one which leads to greater and greater joy.

II. How to get rid of the grumps!

A. Phil 1.4- Joy is found in prayer

1. Communing with God is the foundation for joy.

2. Prayer-less Christians are joyless Christians

3. We don't have to talk to God; we get to talk to God

4. Many don't pray because of a faulty understanding of God. Many don't pray because they are either angry at God or afraid of Him.

5. Prayer is the language of dependence. Prayerlessness is a sign of self reliance and pride.

6. Communion with God will lead you to His Word

B. Phil. 1.25- Joy is found in faith

1. When you are in faith you will have joy.

2. Faith is not looking for a manifestation of something you prayed for- that is hope. Faith has received what was asked. It has it right

now. If you believe you have something now it will produce joy even before you see it.

3. Faith comes from meditating in the Word of God. **Rom. 10:17**

4. Spending time with God in prayer and the Word are the foundations for joy in your life. These provide you the strength and empower you to the will of God.

5. **Romans 15:13**- Two things accompany believing- joy and peace

6. Seeking pleasure will choke out the Word. Satan's fake substitute for joy is pleasure. **Luke 8:14**

C. Phil 2.2- Joy is found in unity

1. Paul had joy in all areas but this one. He counted himself as one with the Philippians. He said fulfill or complete my joy by unity.

2. You will not have joy if you are in strife with others.

3. If you are jealous, angry, or holding a grudge you cannot experience joy

4. People that are always in contention with others are unhappy people

D. Phil 2:17- Joy is found in enduring trials for Christ and others

1. There is no joy in suffering for suffering sake.

2. There is no joy in suffering for your own stupidity

3. There is joy in suffering for Christ and for others

E. Phil 2.29- Joy is found in fellowship

1. God made us to be relational. If we are not fellowshiping with others we will not have joy

2. Many are self centered and think that every one is unfriendly. The fact of the matter is that they are unfriendly.

3. **Prov. 18:24**- If you are going to have friends you must be friendly.

4. Come to our fellowships!

F. Phil 4.1- Joy is found in soul winning

1. If you do not care about Christians you will not care about the lost

2. There is a great joy in sharing Christ with others

3. If the previous areas are missing in our lives it is a great burden to win souls. If they are then soul winning just flows out of you

G. Phil 4.10- Joy is found in giving

1. If all the above areas are in your life then God has your heart.

2. Your heart and treasure will be in the same place

3. Tithing and giving brings joy

III. Conclusion

A. If you have the grumps then one or more of the areas we talked about today is missing out of your life.

B. Joy and happiness is not the same thing. Happiness comes from circumstances. Joy comes from in the inside. It is a fruit of the Spirit. It can be present in any situation

C. Having joy is dependent on you, not the economy, your job, our other people.

D. Joy starts with communing with God and ends in giving.

E. Prayer