

Joy in Thanksgiving Philippians 4:10-23

Learning to find joy in every circumstance is a process. And it begins with intentional _____, especially for the people in our lives who know us and love us anyway.

Discussion 1. Contentment in all circumstances is a lofty goal and not easily accomplished. What kinds of circumstances (health, financial, family, work, etc.) present the biggest challenge for you to find contentment? Why?

Rejoicing in gratitude for the people in our lives usually has much less to do with the things they have given us and much more to do with the painful times when they've simply _____.

Discussion 2. Who has given generously to you? Who stood with you during a difficult or painful season? Which matters more to you now? Why?

Our response to someone's generosity in our lives can be thankfulness for the thing(s) they have given us, or it can be a richer, deeper gratitude for their own _____ for having participated in God's work. Let's aim for the latter.

Discussion 3. What are some practical steps you can take to be more mindful of the spiritual welfare of others who have stood with you or have given to you? Maybe start by turning the question around: when you give generously, how does it impact your relationship with Jesus?

_____ and _____ are both critical parts of God's economy for Christ followers. If I am struggling to find joy today, it probably has something to do with a lack of those two attitudes in my life.

Discussion 4. Name something or someone for which you are especially thankful and that the others in your discussion group might not guess.

Discussion 5. How does this lesson cause you to pray? How does it prepare your heart for worship?

Philippians 4:1-9

Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

² I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. ³ Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Prayer Requests for my table:

NEXT WEEK: Philippians 4:10-23