

Life in Color #9

Joy in the Pursuit of Holiness

Word

Scripture Reference

Philippians 4:4-9

Discussion Questions

1. Read Philippians 4:4-9. What was Paul encouraging the believers to do? Discuss how it can be possible to rejoice even amidst the sufferings that are distressing you.
2. Inward joy is only possible through Jesus Christ, who died in your place so you can have the gift of eternal life. If you believe in Christ as your personal Savior, you receive this all-sufficient grace from God. Experiencing the joy of being given this undeserved gift should produce in Christians an outward kindness that tells the world of your inward attitude (v. 4-5). What do your actions say about you? Share with the group about a personal experience where you showed kindness or gentleness to someone who may not have deserved such treatment, but because you have joy in the Lord you've treated him/her kindly just the same.
3. Being anxious or worried is a daily occurrence in any one's life, but what does the Bible command us to do (v. 6-7)? Does it mean that we don't need to care for our daily responsibilities? What is the difference between concern and worry?
4. Worrying is a trust issue; it tells the world that you don't really trust God and that you have a very small view of Him. Instead of worrying, the Bible commands us to humbly and earnestly let God know of our needs through prayer. How do you pray for your concerns and worries? Have you fully unloaded your problems to God? Do you pray before or after you have exhausted every possible way to deal with your problems? Discuss the difference.

5. The Bible also teaches that in praying we should have an attitude of thanksgiving. Paul exemplified this by being joyful in every circumstance in his life, even when he was in prison. How does having a thankful heart affect your prayer and your attitude? Why does prayer with thanksgiving give you overwhelming peace? Discuss what kind of peace Paul was talking about in verse 7.
6. What you think about is what you will actually begin to crave and act upon, because the more you think about something, the more you would want to do it. What kind of things do you feed your mind? Discuss how the movies you watched, the books you read, or the conversations you enjoyed influenced your thought life, and how having those thoughts affected your actions.
7. Thinking about holiness leads to its pursuit (v. 8-9). What are the qualities of wholesome thoughts mentioned in verse 8? Why do wholesome thoughts promote constructive qualities in a person's life? What should you do in order to have these qualities?

Walk

Innocence of thought is corrupted by the wickedness of this world. However, if your thought is pure the automatic result is holiness. What areas of your life, especially of your thought life, should you surrender to God in order to cultivate joy in the pursuit of holiness?

Worship & Prayer

Join the Corporate Prayer Time every Friday, 7:15-8:00pm at the Balcony

Pray for...

- Wisdom and strength for all the Youth Camp and DVBS staff, speakers and teachers as they prepare for the camps.
- Healing for FW, ETK, JLI's aunt and uncle, Segundo Yu (4th stage in pain).
- DMH: Daughter's admission to UST school of medicine. Healing of husband's hypertension. Good relation with boss.
- Comfort and salvation for the bereaved family and relatives of the late Mrs. Hung Sau Wah (mother of Mrs. Lai Yuet Chua).
- Blessings and guidance for all the graduating students, and for vacationing students to use their time wisely this summer.