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## Experience the Gifts of Christmas #3: "Joy"

December 13 & 14, 2025

Philippians 4:1, 4-9

### Opener:

Think about a time that you received a gift that brought you joy. What was it about the gift that brought you this sense of joy? How long did the feeling last?

### Go Deeper: *(Exploring the Bible)*

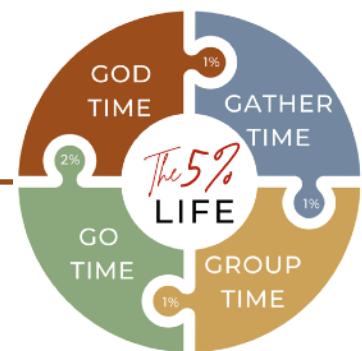
1. Read Philippians 4:4-9. What in this passage immediately jumps out at you? Read it again. What did you hear this second time? Read it a third time focusing on the "why" Paul was rejoicing. What did you discover?
2. Paul wrote the letter to the Philippians while he was in prison. What does this unfortunate circumstance tell you about Paul's source of joy?
3. Read Luke 2:10-12. You are very familiar with this verse. What is the reason for the "great" joy? Who is this great joy for?
4. Read Psalm 118:24. How can we feel joy on this day even if it contains troubles? What is the difference between joy and happiness?
5. Read Nehemiah 8:10. Who gives us strength? What are the pitfalls of believing we can do things on our own?

## Live It: (Applying to Daily Life)

1. Describe a time when you felt the burden of having to put on a facade and faking joy that you didn't feel. What happened?
2. Reflect on the understanding that joy isn't a feeling. It's a gift. It's a state of being. In what ways does this change your perception of joy?
3. In the sermon it was said that the Holy Spirit brings the fullness of joy to believers, giving us an inner sense of well-being, peace, and joy that are not dependent on external circumstances. How does this truth change you in your current circumstances?
4. We often think we have to do things - pray more, forgive more, be grateful more, in order to experience God's gift of joy. With your new understanding that joy is a gift that comes from God without strings attached (because it is a gift), how does this change your "To Do List?"
5. This is a difficult time of year for so many. Who do you know who needs to hear this message that "the joy of the Lord is our strength"?



**GOD TIME:**



## Daily Bible Readings (December 14-20)

Sun:	Philippians 4:4	Rejoice in the Lord Always
Mon:	Romans 12:12	Rejoice in Hope
Tues:	John 16:22	No One Will Take Away Your Joy
Wed:	Hebrews 12:2	Fixing Our Eyes on Jesus
Thurs:	Philippians 4:10-14	Learning to be Content
Fri:	1 Thessalonians 5:16	Give Thanks in All Circumstances
Sat:	Romans 15:13	Be Filled With Joy and Peace