

CULTIVATING JOY ¹

September 12, 2021 Philippians 1:3-11 by Bob Branch
Joy Infusion, part 3

BIG IDEA: 4 ways to cultivate joy no matter what's happening on the outside.

1. Joyful, thankful _____—recalling happy memories with people.

³ I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now" (v. 3-5)

"So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" **2 Corinthians 5:16-17**

2. Joyful _____ that God is working and won't let up. He writes:

"being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (v. 6)

"we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." **Romans 8:28**

No matter what happens, God is working something good.

"What I'm saying is, Grow up. You're kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you." **Matthew 5:48** TM

3. Joyful, warm, shared _____ in relationships.

⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. (7-8)

"My friends at Corinth, our hearts are wide open to you and we speak freely, holding nothing back from you... Make room in your hearts for us as we have done for you." **2 Corinthians 6:13** TPT

4. Joy comes thru learning to _____.

⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God. (9-11)

"love one another deeply, from the heart." **1 Peter 1:22**

IN PRACTICE:

1. _____ he's put in your life.
Each day, 5 min.
2. Ask God to _____ how he's working in your life and share it with someone close.
3. _____ with a close friend this week—share how you're doing, what you're feeling, and what you think you need.
4. Daily pray for your _____.