



THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST BIBLE OUTREACH

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gcbo.com.ng



WHAT NEXT IN A TIME LIKE THIS?

Pastor A.S.O Olaleye

DAY 2

September 27, 2022

What Next Is To Discover The Source of Joy

Philippians 4:1 "Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.

Philippians 4:2 Be United, Joyful, and in Prayer

I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.

Philippians 4:3 And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life.

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

Philippians 4:5 Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.

Philippians 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; Philippians 4:7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Question: Is it possible to be full of joy in a time like this?

Is it really possible to "always be full of joy in a time like this?"

In Philippians 4:4 we are told to "Always be full of joy in the Lord."

Apostle Paul who wrote this epistle was not enjoying life when he wrote it, he was in prison.

In fact, this was one of four letters we have in the Bible that the Apostle Paul wrote from lonely prison cell in Rome.

In that situation, no one would have ever thought of the word rejoice yet he was encouraging others to rejoice!

The word joy appears nineteen times in this letter to the church in Philippi.

Some theologians even called it the Epistle of Joy.

While joy seems to be the recurring in book of Philippians, there is another word that occurs more than any other word and that is the name of Jesus Christ. His name appears over forty times in these four chapters and he is the one who is the very source of joy!

That explains how Paul could be full of joy despite the limitations and constraints of his circumstances.



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His joy was found in Jesus, "Always be full of joy IN THE LORD."

No body can be joyful about loss, or painful circumstances, but those circumstances don't have to rob you of your joy in the Lord, Jesus Christ.

The story of when the wind screen of my car got chattered.....

Paul's faith in God cleared his vision, so he could see further ahead than his present circumstances." That's a faith that works, genuine faith.

In a time like this our faith must be in Christ Jesus because our faith in Christ produces real joy!

If all that you can see are your present circumstances, then your circumstances will determine your joy.

But when you and I get to the place where we find ourselves in the center of the will of God and know we are in His will, not even the harshest of circumstances will rob us of our joy!

We need to see beyond our present circumstances and be focused on Jesus, "the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God!" Hebrews 12:2 (NKJV)

There is no other source of joy that can sustain you in a time like this.

In Christ, we can always be full of joy.

Therefore in a time like this, the next thing is to see Jesus Christ as the source of our joy because there is nothing in the world again that can give man joy.

PRAYERS.....

Psalms 92:4 For You, Lord, have made me glad through Your work;
I will triumph in the works of Your hands.

Some see this Psalm as "A Song to be Sung on the Sabbath Day."

A Bible historians tell us that this psalm was sung in Temple services on the Sabbath.

The first three verses say,

"Psalms 92:1 "It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;



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Psalms 92:2 To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning, And Your faithfulness every night,

Psalms 92:3 On an instrument of ten strings,
On the lute, And on the harp, With harmonious sound."

He now explained what gives him joy in verse 4, "You make me glad, LORD, with all You have done for me! I sing for joy because of what You have done."

With a heart of gratitude, praise erupts with authentic joy!

The Psalmist wasn't ashamed to proclaim it either. We have only to take inventory for a second of all that God has done for us, you will know that He lavishes His blessings on us.

What has He done for you? Those who are thrilled by God don't have boring worship times.

They can't wait to express what God has done. Verse 5 says, "O Lord, what great works you do!" This is the kind of worship that delights the heart of God! Never be ashamed to proclaim the goodness of God! How has He thrilled you?

Finally, Give Priority To Church in a time like this.

Hebrews 10:24-25 Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,

Hebrews 10:25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

What does this mean to you? The Bible uses many metaphors to describe the church - the family of God, a building, the body of Christ, the bride of Christ, and a royal priesthood of believers. Most people especially the youth wonder what's the point of church.

Even many confessed Christ followers have fallen away and lost connection with the church today, especially with the happenings in the world now.

That is why the writer of Hebrews challenges Christ followers to realign their priorities and consider the value of church in their lives as a place to worship in community with fellow believers, encouraging each other to love and service.

We need that today more than ever before in our culture.



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We need the church. It's vital to our spiritual health and purpose to share God's love to a broken and fallen world.

Have you lost connection with the local church?

Maybe it just became easier to worship on the TV for a live stream service. But deep down, you know that just isn't enough. You're missing connection and fellowship with other Christ followers.

One translation of Hebrews 10:25 (NKJV) puts it like this: "... not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some"

For instance, you can have all the parts to a bicycle in a box, but you'll never be able to ride it until it is assembled. Disassembled, we have potential, but we will never realize that potential until we are assembled together with other Christ followers in the common vision for which Christ has called us. This is the value of connection! It is the priority of church in our lives.

If you've gotten out of the habit of meeting for worship, maybe it's time to realign your priorities and rediscover the value of church this weekend. Shift your focus from seeking a church to meet your needs to worshipping the only one worthy of all our praise. Then look for ways God may want to use you to connect and encourage others. Become part of a small group. We worship in large group assemblies, but when we connect together in small groups we experience body life – the life of Christ functioning within His body, the church! That's why we call them Life Groups.

For those seeking a church home and deeper connections with other Christ followers in a life group, we invite you to join us for a complimentary lunch at our Membership Class this Sunday after the final morning worship services at any of our Woodlands Church campuses in the Houston area. Kick off the Fall with a new priority in your life. Register now for the Membership Class and experience the joy of connecting with other Christ followers!