

JOY FOR LIFE
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~ *JOY IN LIFE IS A STATEMENT OF MY CONFIDENCE* ~
IN GOD NO MATTER WHAT.

The reasons why joy escapes people may be reduced by two reasons:

1) **GUILT** from past sins.

1 John 2.1,2 *My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. 2 He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.*

2) **AFFLICTION** in life that consumes our time, energy, and perspective.

2 Corinthians 12.10 *That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

Philippians 1:4 *Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy.*

Philippians 1.25 *Knowing this, I am convinced that I will remain alive so I can continue to help all of you grow and experience the joy of your faith.*

Philippians 4.11,12 *Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. 12 I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little.*

*“All the tomorrows of our life have to pass through Him
before they can get to us.”* F.B. MEYER

Philippians 4.13 *For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.*

HOW DO WE KNOW WE ARE GROWING IN JOY?

Our **PERSPECTIVE** toward adversity and the people who irritate us has been changing.

Philippians 3.1 *Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith.*

Philippians 2.14 *Do everything without complaining and arguing.*

HOW DO WE KNOW WE ARE GROWING IN JOY?

Our complaining quotient goes down while our rejoicing quotient goes up.

“The pessimist complains about the wind. The optimist expects it to change. The realist adjusts the sail.” WILLIAM A. WARD

Psalms 34.1-5 *I will praise the Lord at all times. I will constantly speak His praises. 2 I will boast only in the Lord; let all who are helpless take heart. 3 Come, let us tell of the Lord’s greatness; let us exalt His name together. 4 I prayed to the Lord, and He answered me. He freed me from all my fears. 5 Those who look to him for help will be radiant with joy; no shadow of shame will darken their faces.*

Father, I know that I cannot always control what happens to me, but I can control what happens in me. Because You are the source of JOY, I place my life before You in submission to Your authority. Help me live at a level of joy that honors You and encourages others along the journey of life. I ask this in the Name of the One who brought JOY to the world, Emmanuel.

SALVATION PRAYER

Jesus, I find myself being drawn to You. I want You to be my Savior and Lord. I confess that my sin has separated me from You. Forgive me and cleanse me from sin. I ask You to live through me each day as I humble myself before You. Amen.