gracechurch of Sahuarita

For Joy

November 8, 2026

Key Verses

- John 15:11
- Philippians 4:4
- Philippians 1:3-5
- Philippians 1:12-13
- Philippians 2:15-16
- Philippians 4:19
- Acts 20:35

Questions

- Pastor Fred said that Christians, of all people, should have the most overflowing joy in the world. Would you say that is how others see you day to day? Why or why not?
- Jesus told His disciples in John 15:11 that he had joy even as He faced the cross. What does that tell us about the nature of true joy, and how is it different from simply feeling happy about your circumstances?
- Paul found joy even while under house arrest in Rome. Can you think of a difficult season in your own life where God used a hard circumstance to bring about good? How did that experience affect your faith?
- The sermon described four sources of joy in Philippians: what God is doing in the local church, partnering with missionaries, the joy of giving to missionaries, and seeing God

resupply your generosity. Which of these four resonates most with you personally, and why?

- Paul says in Philippians 1:5 that the church in Philippi was his partner in the good news about Jesus Christ from the very first day. What does it mean to you personally to be a partner with missionaries, and how does that partnership connect you to something bigger than your own daily life?
- Acts 20:35 reminds us that it is more blessed to give than to receive. Have you experienced this to be true in your own life? Share a time when giving brought you unexpected joy.
- Pastor Fred mentioned that God views our financial support of missionaries as if we are right there on the mission field with them, and that this partnership accrues to our eternal rewards. How does that perspective change the way you think about giving to missions?
- What is one practical step you could take this week to grow in generosity, whether financially, with your time, or in some other way, and how might that step increase your joy in the Lord?

Life Application

This week, take a few minutes each day to intentionally reflect on what God is doing around you rather than focusing on wanting to change your circumstances. Write down at least two or three specific things God has done in your life or in your church that you are genuinely grateful for. Then, identify one way you can be more joyous this week, whether by giving financially to For Joy, encouraging another believer, offering prayers of thanksgiving, or sharing the good news with someone seeking God. Ask God to fill you with the overflowing joy that comes from being an active partner in His work.

Key Takeaways

- True joy is found in Jesus Christ alone. Rejoicing in the Lord is not a feeling that depends on circumstances but a deliberate, ongoing mindset rooted in who Jesus is and what He is doing.
- Reflecting on what God is accomplishing through the local church and through missionaries around the world is a powerful and biblical source of overflowing joy for every believer.

- When Christians financially support missionaries, Christ considers them genuine partners in the His work, and that partnership will be rewarded with eternal honor and glory in His kingdom.
- It is more joyful to give than to receive. Generosity reflects the very nature of God, and a generous life is one that God promises to resupply so that even greater generosity becomes possible.
- Christians have a unique identity as children of God and citizens of heaven, and living with that identity in view gives us a reason to rejoice even in the darkest and most difficult seasons of life.

3 Things

G — GLORIFY | God's Goodness (Psalm 100:5)
Praise God for His everlasting goodness, steadfast love, and faithfulness through every generation.
A — ALIGN | Gratitude (1 Thessalonians 5:18)
Ask God to cultivate thankful hearts that recognize His blessings and respond with joy, regardless of our circumstances.
P — PETITION | Our Veterans (Isaiah 6:8)
Pray for veterans and their families, asking God to provide encouragement, healing, strength, and support for those who have served our country.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the joy that is found only in You. Thank You that Your joy is not dependent on perfect circumstances but is rooted in who You are and what You are doing in this world. As we leave this time together, we ask that You would fill each one of us with that overflowing joy You promised Your disciples in the upper room. Help us to keep our eyes fixed on Your kingdom rather than on our own comfort. Make us generous people, a generous church, willing to plant seeds of the Gospel here at home and to the ends of the earth. We trust You to meet every need, just as You have promised. May the world see something different in us, a joy that can only come from You. In the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior, we pray. Amen.