



“Enjoying the Abundant Life of Jesus: Joyful Life”

Colossians 3:15-17

Introduction: “What is God’s will for my life?”

1 Thessalonians 5:18 – “In everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

“JOYOUSLY giving thanks to the Father...” (Colossians 1:12)

- Jesus: “These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full” (John 15:11).
- James: “Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials...” (James 1:2).
- Peter: “...though you have not seen Him (i.e., Christ), you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory” (1 Peter 1:8).
- Paul: “Rejoice in the Lord always” (Philippians 4:4).

**A thankful life that shows in a thankful face begins with a thankful heart.
A joyful life begins with an attitude of gratitude.**

Almighty God loves to bring a smile to our faces! (cf. Job 9:27; Psalm 42:11)

Colossians 3:15-17 – “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”

The Keys to Living a Joyful and Thankful Life That Shows

Key #1: Letting the Peace of Christ Rule in Us Daily

Colossians 3:15 – “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body...”

What is the Peace of Christ?

#1. It’s the peace we find in the person of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:14 – “For He Himself is our peace...”

#2. It’s the peace we receive when we trust in Christ.

Romans 5:1 – “Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...”

#3. It’s the peace the world can never offer.

John 14:27 – “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.”

#4. It’s the peace we can never fully understand.

Philippians 4:7 – “And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

#5. It's the peace that assures us that God is in control of the details of our lives. (cf. Hebrews 3:5)

#6. It's the peace we need to rule our lives.

Colossians 3:15 – “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body...”

The Greek word *brabeuo* here translated “rule” is a word that speaks of acting like a referee...an umpire. Each of us, as members of the heavenly team, are to let the peace of Christ have the final say in all of our earthly matters.

The evidence of a heart filled with the peace of Christ is...THANKFULNESS

Colossians 3:15 – “...and be thankful.”

Key #2: Letting the Word of Christ Dwell in Us Richly

Colossians 3:16 – “Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another...”

We need the Word of God to “dwell” (Greek: *enoikeo*) — i.e., to inhabit us— to make its home in our hearts so we can enjoy all it's amazing wealth and life-changing wisdom. In Philippians 2:16 the Apostle Paul calls believers to a life of “...holding fast (Greek: *epecho* = retaining/taking hold of) the word of life...”

cf. Psalm 119:11 – “Your word I have TREASURED in my heart, that I may not sin against You.”

**When the Word of Christ is richly dwelling within us
it easily flows out from us in abundant joy and thanksgiving!**

Colossians 3:16 – “Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

The evidence of a heart filled with the Word of Christ is THANKFULNESS that shows.

Just as a peaceful heart is accompanied by thanksgiving, a teachable heart is accompanied by the same joyful spirit.

“...with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs...”

A heart in tune with God can't help but JOYFULLY sing His praises.

Key #3: Letting the Character of Christ Influence Us Thoroughly.

Colossians 3:17a – “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”

What we say and do must reflect the name...the character ...the life of Christ.

Colossians 3:17 – “Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus...”

1 Corinthians 10:31 – “Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

The evidence of a heart filled with the life of Christ is THANKFULNESS...a life that is “...giving thanks through Him (i.e. the Lord Jesus Christ) to God the Father” (Colossians 3:17).

Concluding Challenge:

“Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials...” (James 1:2)

“Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.” (Colossians 3:17)

“Joy is the flag flown high from the castle of my heart when the King is in residence there.”

“Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy...” (Jude 1:24)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think it is “God’s will” that we be thankful “in everything” (1 Thess. 5:18)?
2. How important is it for thankfulness to show on our faces?
3. Which of the three keys to living a joyful life (based on Colossians 3:15-17) do you have the most trouble demonstrating?
 - Letting the peace of Christ rule in me daily
 - Letting the word of Christ dwell in me richly
 - Letting the character of Christ influence me thoroughly
4. What did you get most out of this message?