

THE SUMMER OF JOY 10

FOREVER JOY

Proverbs 31:10 (NASV)

An excellent wife, who can find?

For her worth is far above jewels.

Proverbs 31:25 (NASB95)

25Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she smiles at the future.

WE TALKED ABOUT RIGHT NOW JOY. LET'S TALK ABOUT FOREVER JOY.

I. FOREVER JOY REQUIRES A HIGHER _____ THAN SELF-GRATIFICATION

Philippians 4:10 (NASB95)

But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned before, but you lacked opportunity.

WHY IS HE REJOICING?

Is he rejoicing because of the gift? I mean he's in prison. He has needs. This gift was a Godsend.

MOST OF US WOULD THINK HIS JOY CAME FROM THE _____ OF THE
OFFERING BECAUSE WE THINK JOY COMES FROM _____ - _____.

SELF IS NEVER GRATIFIED BECAUSE SELF IS NEVER _____.

There's this thing working against that theory called, "The Law of Diminishing Returns."

MAX LUCADO,

Over a million Israelites have been liberated from captivity and follow Moses into

the desert. Their jubilation over liberation soon becomes frustration of dehydration.”¹

Walker Percy,

“Why does man feel so bad in the very age when, more than in any other age, he has succeeded in satisfying his needs and making over the world for his own use?”²

PAUL DIDN'T REJOICE BECAUSE OF THE OFFERING. HE REJOICED BECAUSE OF WHAT THE OFFERING _____ ABOUT THE _____.

Philippians 4:17 (NASB95)

¹⁷Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account.

Philippians 4:1 (NASB95)

Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.

He's saying, “Your spiritual victory is my victory. You are my joy and reward.

II. FOREVER JOY IS _____ WHERE I AM WITH WHAT I HAVE

Philippians 4:11–12 (NASB95)

¹¹Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.

FIRST, THIS IS _____ BEHAVIOR.

SECOND, IT'S _____ BEHAVIOR

KITTLE, “The word is both a central concept in ethical discussion from the time of Socrates and yet also a well-worn term in ordinary usage. In Cynic and Stoic philosophy it denotes one who exercises in relation to his own inner possibility and who thus becomes an independent man sufficient to himself and in need of none else.”³

¹ Max Lucado *The Great House of God*.

² Quoted by Phil Yancey

³ Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, Kittle † αὐτάρκεια, † αὐτάρκης.

1 Timothy 6:6 (NASB95)

⁶But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment.

Philippians 4:11–12 (NASB95)

¹²I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity;

DON'T THINK FOR A SECOND THAT _____ IS SOMEHOW EASIER TO
MANAGE THAN ADVERSITY.

Carlyle wrote, *Adversity is sometimes hard on a man; but for one man who can stand prosperity, there are 100 that will stand adversity.*"

Philippians 4:11–12 (NASB95)

¹²I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; IN ANY AND EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE I HAVE LEARNED THE SECRET of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.

THIRD, YOU CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT _____

Philippians 4:13 (NASB95)

¹³I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

JOB LOST HIS WEALTH, HIS FAMILY, AND HIS REPUTATION BUT NOT HIS
_____.

Job 1:21–22 (NASB95)

²¹He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked I shall return there. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD."

²²Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God.

DAVID LOST A KINGDOM AND A SON, BUT NOT HIS _____

2 Samuel 15:25–26 (NASB95)

²⁵The king said to Zadok, "Return the ark of God to the city. If I find favor in the

sight of the LORD, then He will bring me back again and show me both it and His habitation.

²⁶“But if He should say thus, ‘I have no delight in you,’ behold, here I am, let Him do to me as seems good to Him.”

MOSES LOST THE KINGDOM OF EGYPT BUT NOT HIS _____

Hebrews 11:26 (NASB95)

²⁶considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.

III. FOREVER JOY NEEDS TO BE _____ IN THE

Philippians 4:18–23 (NASB95)

¹⁸But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God.

THE MATERIAL THINGS OF LIFE WERE SIMPLY _____ GOD
PROVIDED TO FULFILL HIS MISSION.

THERE'S SOME JOY IN _____ THE JERSEY, BUT THERE'S REAL JOY IN
_____ THE GAME.

Philippians 4:18–23 (NASB95)

¹⁹And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

²⁰Now to our God and Father be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

²¹Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you.

²²All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household.

²³The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.