

Searching For Peace

The Lakefront Church and First Baptist Church - Venice, Florida
One Church - Two Locations November 16, 2025

Are you ready for Thanksgiving?

Put yourself in Paul's tunic.

You are sitting in a prison, not sure if you will be released or executed.

Have you done something wrong?

Matthew 13:24-30 (CSB) *He presented another parable to them: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵But while people were sleeping, his enemy came, sowed weeds among the wheat, and left. ²⁶When the plants sprouted and produced grain, then the weeds also appeared. ²⁷The landowner's servants came to him and said, 'Master, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Then where did the weeds come from?' ²⁸"An enemy did this,' he told them. "So, do you want us to go and pull them up?' the servants asked him. ²⁹"No,' he said. 'When you pull up the weeds, you might also uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest. At harvest time I'll tell the reapers: Gather the weeds first and tie them in bundles to burn them, but collect the wheat in my barn.'"*

God's Kingdom has weeds and wheat growing together. We see God at work redeeming people and changing lives, just as He has done in your life!

Philippians 4:4-9 (CSB) *Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your graciousness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*

People try to find peace in their own way; unfortunately, some try to find peace through alcohol, weed, prescription meds, gambling, overwork, binging on computer gaming, running away, or _____.

Rejoice - to receive joy and to give joy.

HOW CAN I REJOICE?

1. Matthew 2:10 (ESV) *When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.*

Expressing gratitude for Jesus! The Messiah became a person to pay the price for your sin, to die in your place!

2. Luke 10:20 (ESV) *Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits (demons) are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."*

Remembering God's character. He has chosen to forgive us through Jesus. My name is PERMANENTLY written in Heaven.

3. Luke 15:6-7 (ESV) *And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.'⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.*

Praising God in Worship. God is the shepherd. We are the lost sheep. The angels in heaven rejoiced when God sought you and brought you home!

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