

BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS

PHILIPPIANS 1:4

"Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy". (KJV)

"And all my prayers for you are flooded with joy" (CPV)

"My prayers for you are full of praise to God as I give Him thanks for you with great joy! I'm so grateful for our union." (PTP)

"Each exclamation is a trigger to prayer. I find myself praying for you with a glad heart." (MSG)

"My constant prayers for you are a real joy, for they bring back to my mind how we have..." (PHI)

I. THE MARKS OF MATURE BELIEVERS:

What are the marks of a mature Christian believer? What are the marks of a dynamic, mature Christian Church? Clearly, the marks so desperately needed by believers and churches are spelled out:

THE THIRD MEASURING MARK: _____ (v. 4)



1. Remember that Paul was in _____ in Rome, yet his heart is filled with _____.
 - ☞ Joy means 'an **inner** or **outer** gladness; a deep seated pleasure'.
 - ☞ Joy is a depth of assurance and confidence that ignites a cheerful and rejoicing _____.
 - ☞ Joy is a cheerful heart that leads to cheerful and rejoicing _____.
2. **T F:** The joy of the Lord is the same as the joy of the world.
3. The joy of the world is more of a **temporary** or **permanently** pleasure than joy.
 - ☞ The world's joy is always nagged by some incompleteness, some missing ingredient. There is not a complete sense of assurance, confidence, and satisfaction.
 - ☞ There is the knowledge that something can go wrong: circumstances can change or some situation can arise to disturb the joy (sickness, death, financial loss, war).
 - ☞ The *haunting awareness* always keeps the world's joy from being full and complete, assuring and satisfying.
4. Several things need to be said about the believer's joy:
 - ✓ JOY is _____. JOY is possessed and given only by God. Its roots are not in earthy or material things or cheap triumphs. It is the JOY of the Holy Spirit, a JOY based in the _____. It is His very own JOY. Jesus said, "I have told you this so that My JOY may be in you and that your JOY may be complete." (**John 15:11**)
 - ✓ JOY **does depend on** or **does not depend on** circumstances or happiness.
 - Happiness depends on _____,
 - but the JOY that God _____ in the believer's heart overrides all, even the matters of life and death. **Psalms 5:11 TLB** quotes, "But make everyone rejoice who puts his trust in You. Keep them shouting for joy because You are defending them. Fill all who love You with Your happiness."
 - ✓ JOY springs from _____. (**Romans 15:13 AMPC:** "May the God of your hope so fill you with all joy and peace in believing [through the experience of your faith] that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound and be overflowing (bubbling over) with hope.")
5. "...making request with joy" means "____ rejoice, _____ rejoice".
 - ✗ Although the word JOY appears _____ times in the Book of Philippians.
 - ✗ The Book of Philippians called "the _____ EPISTLE (letter)".
 - ✗ If we are going to pick out the word that occurs more than any other word, we must take the name of Jesus Christ. His Name appears over _____ times in this book of Philippians.

- Jesus Christ is the _____ of the book of Philippians.
- Jesus Christ is the One who is the very _____ of JOY.
- Therefore, the emphasis should be that Jesus Christ is our _____.
 - As we shall see, the philosophy of Christian living has to do with Him; the pattern has to do with Him.
 - The _____ of Christian living has to do with Him, and the _____ has to do with Him.
 - Actually, it is a personal relationship with Christ that brings _____ to a believer's life.

✂ Paul said, “**Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy**”. The time of prayer was not an ordeal for Paul. He didn't say, “Oh, I've got to go through the ordeal of praying for those folk again! No. Paul said, “As I am here in jail, it is a lot of _____ to pray for you, Philippians: it brings joy to my heart.”

6. **THE SOURCE OF THE BELIEVER'S JOY IS SEVERALFOLD:**

- ☞ The _____ of the Father and His Son brings JOY. (1 John 1:3-4)
- ☞ _____ brings JOY. (Luke 15:7, 10)
- ☞ Jesus' _____ [the revelations, commandments, and promises which He made] brings JOY. (John 15:11)
- ☞ The disciples were _____ with JOY, and with the HOLY SPIRIT. (Acts 13:52)
- ☞ _____ brings JOY. (John 16:24)
- ☞ _____ that others walk in the truth brings JOY. (3 John 1:4)
- ☞ _____ brings JOY. (2 Corinthians 8:2)

7. Paul remembered them with _____.

- ✂ In book of Acts 16:21 to 34 VOC: At Philippi Paul was maltreated (to treat badly, cruelly, or roughly; abuse).
- ✂ v. 22: The crowd joined with insults and insinuations, prompting the city officials to strip them naked in the public square so they could be beaten with rods.
- ✂ v. 23: They were flogged mercilessly and then were thrown into the prison cell. The jailer was ordered to keep them under the strictest supervision.
- ✂ v. 24: The jailer complied, first restraining them in ankle chains, then locking them in the most secure cell in the center of the jail.
- ✂ v. 25: PICTURE THIS: It's midnight. In the darkness of their cell, Paul and Silas—after surviving the severe beating—**aren't moaning and groaning; they're praying and singing hymns to God**. The prisoners in adjoining cells are wide awake, listening to them pray and sing.
- ✂ v. 32-34: The jailer brings them to his home, and they have a long conversation with the man and his family. Paul and Silas explain the message of Jesus to them all. The man washes their wounds and feeds them, then they baptize the man and his family. The night ends with Paul and Silas in the jailer's home, sharing a meal together, the whole family **REJOICING** that they have come to faith in God.
 - **KNOW THE JOY OF PRAYER:**
 - GRATITUDE DESPITE INTERNAL CONFLICT
 - GREAT MEMORIES DESPITE HARDSHIP
 - JOY DESPITE IMPRISONMENT