Faithful Instructions

Rejoice Always

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

- 1. You can't always be happy, but <u>JOY</u> can always be available to you if you are a Christian.
- 2. True joy **ORIGINATES** from having Jesus as your Savior. Jesus is God and his work saves you, gives you hope and an inheritance.
- 3. In Jesus, there is a perspective on your life story fitting into God's big story that **ENABLES YOU** to rejoice always, even when you are unhappy.
- 4. Joy is a **CHOICE**. It is a wake-up call to our will.

If you're not living with joy, ask yourself why not? Have I chosen joy?

5. Joy is <u>SUPERNATURAL</u>. It is a result (a fruit) of God's Holy Spirit and is not falsely manufactured. Are you participating with His work in you by choosing joy?

6. Even in <u>SORROW</u>, God says you can rejoice always while grieving.

7. The command "rejoice always" goes hand in hand with "continual prayer" and "giving thanks." It's the **TRIPLE THREAT** to all that threatens your psychological well-being.

8. What will joy do in my life? It will influence my behavior and **STIMULATE** my affections and desires. That's a pretty good description of hope in the midst of hardship, is it not?