

TOWARD A RADICAL UNITY

TRU-01 “The Joy of the Lord”

PAUL’S LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS

06/14/2026

PHIL 2:1-2 “IF you find any comfort from being in the Anointed, IF His love brings you some encouragement, IF you experience true companionship with the Spirit, IF His tenderness and mercy fill your heart; then, brothers and sisters, here is one thing that would complete my joy—come together as one in mind and spirit and purpose, sharing in the same love.”

The Letter to the Philippians is often distinguished by the repetition of “JOY”. As can be seen in a reading of the Letter this certainly stands-out.

1:18-19 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.

Yes, and I will rejoice.¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance...

1:25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith...

2:1-2 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy,² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

2:17-18 Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.

¹⁸ Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

2:28-29 I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious.²⁹ So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men...

3:1 Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.

4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, rejoice.

4:10 I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me.

In each of these 12x’s we can see that “JOY” is a choice that is to be made. It is not the “situation” nor the conditions that produce JOY...

This choice is made by a decision. That decision is drawn from the “indwelling work” of the Holy Spirit... the “FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT.”

Gal 5:22-23 But the FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT is love, JOY, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, self-control...

- The “Fruit” IS... – Each of these “9” characteristics are dimensions of “1” Fruit...
- The Presence of the Spirit” in our lives through the New Birth is the source of these qualities... they are NOT of human origin...
- They are each expressed by CHOICE... Actively not Passively...

Consider: We often quote **NEHEMIAH 8:10** “...And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.” But we ignore the context...

NEH 8:9-12 And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law.

¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for [YOUR] JOY [IN] the LORD is your strength.”¹¹ So the Levites calmed all the people, saying, “Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved.”¹² And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

The people “heard” the Word... The “realized” the blessings God had given... THEY rejoiced... [YOUR Joy in the Lord is your strength...]

WE have the Spirit within... Let US draw upon His presence and REJOICE!