

Philippians – Above the Circumstances!

Phil 3:1

Be Joyful Not Happy

Words are important ...

How we use them matters...

- **Affluent (well endowed) or Busty (well built)**
- **‘Need’ or ‘Want’**
- **‘State’ or ‘Platform’**
‘Audience’ or ‘Congregation’
- **‘Lighthearted’ or ‘Homosexual’**
- **‘Joyful’ or ‘Happy’**

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The Text

- Some things are too important to say just once!
- Joy in Philippians
1:4; 1:18; 1:25; 2:2; 2:17,18; 2:28,29
4:1; 4:4; 4:10
- 150 times in rest of New Testament alone
- Joy 'in the Lord'
- Joy = an inner quality of delight in God unrelated to circumstantial blessing
See James 1:2; John 16:21,22

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The Truth

■ Joy Not Happiness

'happy' defined:

1. characterized by good luck, fortune
2. enjoying, showing or being marked by pleasure

Origin: Middle English 'hap' – i.e. 'luck'

- see 'hapless' (unfortunate)
- see 'happy' (feeling you get when you 'happen' to have good fortune or positive circumstances)

Happiness depends on the circumstances, joy does not.

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The Truth

- Joy Not Happiness
- The Indestructibility of Christian Joy
- The Biblical Reality
 - Hebrews 10:32-35
 - Hebrews 11:24-26
 - Hebrews 12:1-2

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How do you experience true joy?

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade – kept in heaven for you In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have to suffer grief in all kinds of trials... Though you have not seen Him you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an expressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls

I Peter 1:2-9