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# Shepherd's Path

**A Shepherd's Personal Devotions**  
**Great Chapters of the Bible Series, Lesson 43**

**Lesson Title:** Joy Chapter – Philippians 4

**Take Home Point:** Be joyful in the Lord always.

## Warm-Up:

Imagine a wealthy man who mopes around, refusing to withdraw any of the multiple millions available to him. "I just don't feel like a millionaire," he says. "The last time I tried to withdraw money, I had to wait. When I got the money, it didn't really seem like much." Or imagine an army commander standing on the field of battle after the enemy has fled. "Oh, I know I can claim the victory," he says, "but I still feel like a loser. I know I'll just have to fight again, and then what? Will I win again? It's just too hard. I give up." What do you think of these anecdotes? Do they make any sense at all? Vast resources available, the victory already won, yet defeat and failure written all over the attitudes of these two people. But is that unlike the attitude of many Christians who live without the joy that Christ offers?

**Read:** Philippians 4:4-7

## Observation (What happened?):

Why do we get to rejoice always?

What does the peace of God do for us?

## Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Do you think that rejoicing in the Lord means you will always feel happy?

Against what does the peace of God guard our hearts and minds?

## Insight:

The joy available to those who trust in the Lord is a constant theme throughout scripture. The Israelites celebrated their festivals with great joy. Joy is a topic in a third of the Psalms. When the people of Israel returned from exile that cried with joy; in fact, God told Nehemiah that the joy of the Lord would be his strength (Nehemiah 8:10b). Jesus promised his disciples (including you and me) that our joy would be complete in him. In Galatians 5:22, joy is one of the evidences of the Holy Spirit. How do we get to have this joy? God tells us in Isaiah 41:10,13: *"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand...For I am the LORD, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you."* (NIV) We have the presence of Almighty God, who holds us, strengthens us, and helps us. Best of all, the last two verses of Jude tells us what is to come: *"To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy – to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen."* (NIV)

## Application (What does it mean to me?):

How does anyone around you know you have the peace of God and rejoice in him?

What in your life do you need to turn over to God and not be anxious about?

Kingdom Quest year 2