

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for February 22-23, 1997

"Rejoice Always"

Dale Whitehead

1Thessalonians 5:16

What do we need to know about joy?

"Rejoicing always" is commanded (1 Thessalonians 5:16)

There is no event or circumstance in the life of any Christian that should diminish that Christian's joy (Acts 16:25).

If there is any event or circumstance that robs us of our joy we have sinned.

"Rejoicing always" is supernatural (John 15:1-5, 11).

The joy that the world experiences is rooted in themselves and very much dependent upon circumstances.

The joy of the Lord is constant. And it is this joy that we must tap into if we are going to be able to fulfill this command.

But how is this done? It is through having a healthy and dynamic relationship with Jesus so that His joy might fill us.

"Rejoicing always" is based on maintaining proper focus.

Abiding in Christ must be our focus and as we do this we will experience the fruit of that relationship.

The word translated "abide" could also be translated "stay" or "remain". Clearly this is a word involving close fellowship.

KEY THOUGHT: We must not focus our attention on our troubles but rather on abiding with Jesus.

There are two very good indicators that you are going in the right direction in your relationship with Jesus.

The value that you put on God's word in your life (1 Thessalonians 5:7).

The value that you put on prayer in your life (1 Thessalonians 5:7).