

JOY OR WORRY

Philippians 4:4, 6

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice
Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with
thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*

“You just do not understand what I’m going through.” That is how I would like to react when people tell me “do not worry.” Most of us could make a list of our troubles; for some, it would be longer than for others. I have my own and so do you. Thankfully, mine is nothing like Job’s.

On the other hand, I have many reasons for rejoicing. Is it not interesting that Philippians 4:4 was written by a man in prison? It was written by a man who had experienced a lot of hardships. It was written by a man who would eventually be executed for his faith in God and his love for Christ.

Like us, he could react to life’s difficulties in a couple of ways. He could give in to anxiety or he could rejoice. He chose joy. That says something very profound; it says that how we react to the storms of life is a choice that we make.

It is easier to rejoice when we focus on Jesus. In this same chapter, he wrote “I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need” (Philippians 4:12). It is in that context that he wrote the memorable words “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13). If I want to rejoice in all situations, I need to learn to focus on my Lord.

--Ron Harper--

Lessons from Barbed Wire Pt. 5: Completion of a Task

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.” 2 Timothy 4:7-8

I would be lying if I told you I enjoyed putting up the barbed wire fence. The cuts, falls, and sweat are inconveniences that I would rather not have. After a day of work, some people say, “Just wait, you’ll be sore tomorrow.” Too bad I am already sore today. Right when you think you are making progress, something seems to go wrong and the work is hindered. However, there is that moment of relief when the last strand of wire is stretched and you turn around and see the work you have accomplished. You are filled with positive energy and pride in what you have accomplished.

People have asked me if I believe after all this work that the fence will hold the cattle in their respective lots. What kind of a question is that?? Yes, I think it will! If I didn’t, my father, brother, and I would still be stretching wire and fixing holes in the fence. It seems like a weird question, but think about it in this way...

You are about to die and your children, spouse, or doctor asks you sincerely, “Do you think you will go to Heaven?” What will you say? You have put in the work. You have overcome the obstacles of life and been patient with the promises of God. You have worn the proper protective gear in the process of living a Christian life and yet you still say, “I don’t know...”

Notice what Paul says at the end of his life. He knew he had put in the work for the Lord. His task was completed. As he metaphorically turned to look at the work he had done, he tells us what he has accomplished: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” Because of this, Paul knew his task was completed and he would receive his reward (2 Timothy 4:8). We too can truly have confidence in our work and the completion of the task. Living and working for the Lord per his rules and terms will reward us with a home with Him. Let’s work to hear Him say, “Well done.”

Joshua Houston

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Selma Boyd, Ernestine Taylor, Margaret Taylor, Sue Reeves, Odell Grissom, Nora Fann, Virgie Leonard, Lester Clark, Shirley Tenpenny, Kaylie Joy Pendgrast, Laura Wiser, Edna Meadows, Wayne Mobbs

SHUT INS:

Rita Reed, Mabel Robertson, Houston Henry, Oleta Bullard, Tommy & Shirley Bibb, Dan & Lorene Stephens, Melba & Jeanie Young

NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING:

***MEMBERS**

ADAMS PLACE: Nora Fann*

DIVERSICARE OF SMYRNA: Jean Nickens*

NHC: Lizzie Bush, Sue Reeves*

STONES RIVER MANOR: Margaret Davidson*, Jeweldean Hall*, Virgie Leonard*, Ernestine Taylor*, Laura Wiser*, Lillian Whitworth, Edna Vance*

SMYRNA: Geri Melton*

CREEKSIDE AT THREE RIVERS: Nina Summer*

MILITARY:

Tony Berry

We have received donations to the Nicaragua Mission Trip Fund in memory of **Marie Fleming** by the following:

***Karen Cauthen**

***Regenia Grissom**

***Ron & Pat Hays**

***Ken & Lynda Hays**

***Steve & Martha Hill**

***Ron & Janie Harper**

***Pam & James Lively**

***Jeanne & Rick Warren**

***Ladonna & Jack Dugger**

***Bette Berry & Jeanne Berry Crossnoe**

We have received a donation to the Building Fund in memory of **Janet Brown** by the following:

***Lanny & Charlotte Markum**

Welcome new members –

Brady Mayes & Kayla Vongphadky

- We have received a Thank You card from Chris Smith.
- **Visitation Team 1** meets today.
- The **Nicaragua Mission Team** is scheduled to meet today at 12:30pm. Please make plans to attend as Jon Holland will present some final logistical details regarding the trip.
- The **Salem Creek Youth** and **College groups** will have a joint lock-in on March 31st – April 1st beginning at 9pm on the 31st. Please sign the list in the foyer if you plan on attending. We will have a devotional along with the lock-in that will serve as our devotional for March. Please also plan to bring food and write what you plan to bring on the sign-up sheet.
- A **Senior Saints meal** with a speaker is planned for Saturday, April 8th at 5pm at Salem Creek. The meal will be catered and the cost will be \$10 per person. There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer. Please see Keith Short or Larry Benson if you have any questions.
- **Ladies' Day** at East Main on Saturday, April 8th from 8:15 till 12 noon. Lunch will be provided. More information on bulletin board in foyer.

Salem Creek church of Christ
 2525 Salem Creek Drive
 Murfreesboro, TN 37128



P.O. Box 332067
 Murfreesboro, TN 37133-2067

Email: office@salemcreekcoc.org

We're on the web!
www.salemcreekcoc.org

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday

Morning Worship	9:00 am
Bible Classes	10:15 am
Evening Worship	5:30 pm

Wednesday

Ladies Morning Bible Class (Sept-May)	10:00 am
Evening Bible Classes	6:30 pm

ELDERS

B.K. Ham
 Jim Hatfield
 Jon Holland
 Andy Mitchell
 Randall Phifer
 Keith Short

MINISTER

Ron Harper

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Joshua Houston

DEACONS

Rick Acklin	Rick Corum
Larry Benson	Andy Melton
Michael Bowman	Brian Melton
Craig Buckner	Alan Pepper
Joe Byars	Wendell Wilson

FOR THE RECORD

February 26, 2017

Sunday	AM worship	184
	Bible classes	141
	PM worship	120
	Contribution	\$6,371.00

Wednesday	PM Bible classes	132
Wednesday	AM Ladies Class (Sept-May)	8

When county schools are closed due to inclement weather A.M. Ladies class will be cancelled

To Our Honored Guests...

We are happy you chose to worship with us today! Please stay after our assembly so that we can get acquainted with you and your family. We invite you to come back as often as you have opportunity!

We were honored by your presence!

GREETERS

*Please be at the door
 30 minutes prior to service*



March 5

Dean Thompson Louise Smithson

March 12

Jim & Pat Davidson