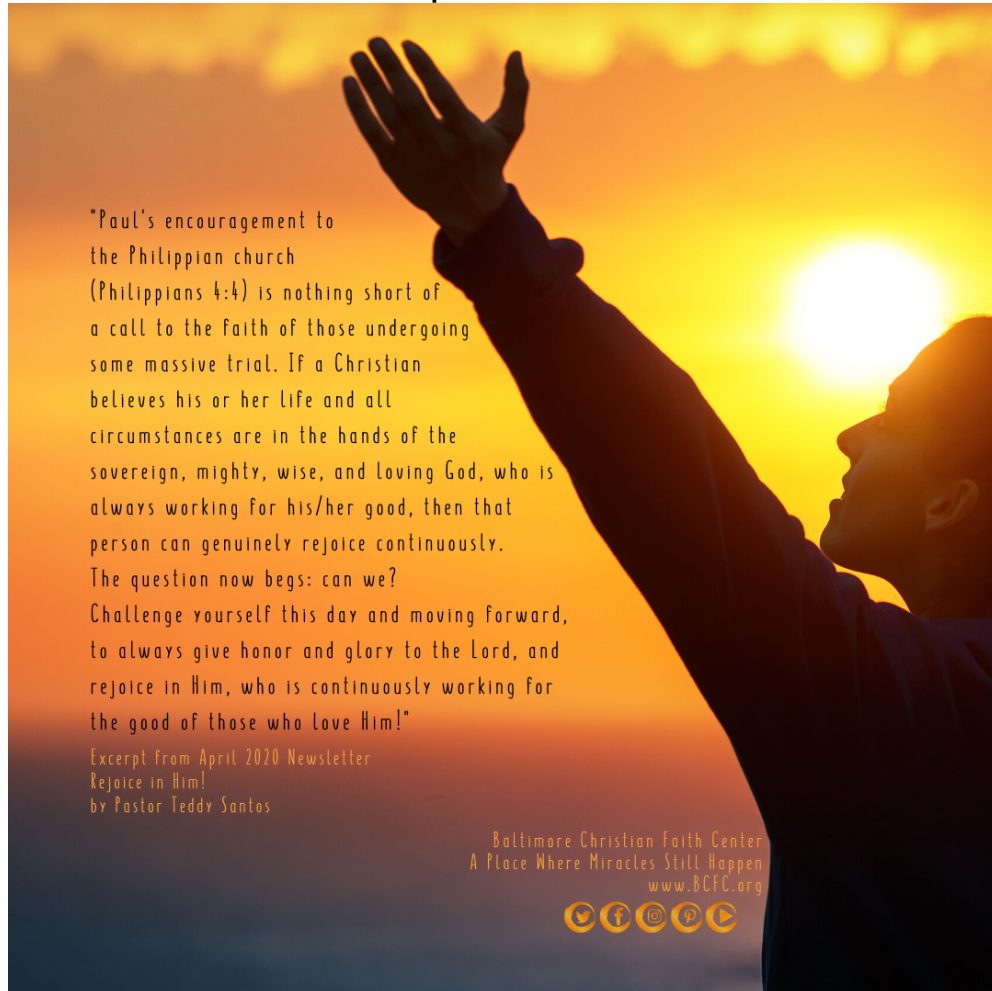


Rejoice in Him!

Monthly Newsletter

April, 2020



Philippians 4:4 *"Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!"*

For a lot of folks, including myself, this is challenging. And yes, we all often stagger over it. It is easy for us to be very appreciative to God when things go super. Possibly, after a safe arrival from a journey, we quickly thank God for a successful arrival, as if He were personally responsible for the operations of all who worked to get us home. Which by the way, there is no wrong in doing so. Suppose, however, that the trip was not so successful. Maybe we were involved in an accident and injured ourselves or simply delayed so that we were late for a meeting, costing a significant sale or the loss of a client? Or let's say that the house got struck by lightning, an earthquake made damaged, or a robber broke in and stole valuables?

Do we see God's hand in these circumstances as well? Is God involved only in the "good" things of life? For example, did Job complain about his "bad luck" or murmur against God? Despite these terrible losses, Job was enabled to worship God. He bowed before Him, even going as far as blessing Him! I find this passage to be one of the most heartfelt gestures by an individual in the Old testament: **Job 1:20-22** *Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD." In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.*

Is this just fatalistic concurrence or blind ignorance? No, in people who fully trust God and live by faith, it is neither of these because real faith always rejoices in the Lord, knowing He is involved in all aspects of life. God is in control still, no matter what the circumstances are!

Paul's encouragement to the Philippian church (Philippians 4:4) is nothing short of a call to the faith of those undergoing some massive trial. If a Christian believes his or her life and all circumstances are in the hands of the sovereign, mighty, wise, and loving God, who is always working for his/her good, then that person can genuinely rejoice continuously. The question now begs: can we? Challenge yourself this day and moving forward, to always give honor and glory to the Lord, and rejoice in Him, who is continuously working for the good of those who love Him! God bless you!

At His service,
Pr. Teddy F. Santos