

# REDISCOVERING JOY

## How to Keep Your Joy

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February 21, 2010

FBC Port A

### PHILIPPIANS 3:1-11

**Php. 3:1 NLT** *Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith.*

### THREE SAFEGUARDS FOR KEEPING YOUR JOY

#### I. RESIST LEGALISTIC ATTITUDES

Definition of Legalism:

**Php. 3:2-3 NLT** *Watch out for those dogs, those people who do evil, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved. For we who worship by the Spirit of God are the ones who are truly circumcised. We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort,*

SAFEGUARD #1: Live Each Day by Grace

Paul's Background: vs. 4-6

**Php. 3:4-6 NLT** *though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more! I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault.*

5 Examples of legalism: Trusting in ...

Rituals  
Race  
Religion  
Rules  
Reputation

**Rom 14:17 NLT** *For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

#### II. REEVALUATE YOUR ACTIVITIES

**Php.3:7-8 NLT** *I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ*

*"I consider it all mere garbage compared to being able to win Christ..." (Ph)*

SAFEGUARD #2: Keep Your Priorities in Perspective

**Luke 12:15 NLT** Then He said, "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own."

#### III. REFOCUS YOUR AMBITIONS

**Php 3:10 NLT** *I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised Him from the dead. I want to suffer with Him, sharing in His death,*

*"For my determined purpose is that I may KNOW Christ -- that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding Him more strongly and more clearly ..." (Amplified Version)*

3 Ways To Grow In Knowing Christ

1. Time      2. Talk      3. Trust

**John 16:24 NLT** *You haven't done this before. Ask, using My name, and you will receive, and you will have abundant joy.*

**John 16:14 NLT** *He will bring Me glory by telling you whatever He receives from Me.*

A man wearing a yellow patterned short-sleeved shirt, blue jeans, and a black baseball cap stands in a lush green field. He has his arms raised in a gesture of joy or praise, with his mouth open as if shouting or singing. The background is a clear blue sky with several blue star-shaped graphics scattered across it. The overall mood is one of happiness and freedom.

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