**“Rejoice Always”**

Going deeper in Philippians 4:1-9

**INTRODUCTION** Prior to this passage the Apostle Paul has focused on all that has been done for us in and through Jesus Christ. He has told the church that we are now citizens of heaven because of Jesus Christ and his work. He now turns to how our citizenship in heaven should impact how we live in the here and now.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.* 1 My deeply loved brethren whom I want the best for. You bring me so much joy. I am very proud of you. Stand fast in the Lord and the fact that you are deeply loved. 2 I urge Euodia and Syntche to iron out their differences. The Lord wants us to be united and not to hold grudges. 3 And, oh yes, Syzgus you are doing the right thing by helping them with this. They worked with me for the cause of the gospel hand in hand with Clement and with many others. They worked hard. Remember their names are in the Book of Life. 4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I will say, Rejoice! 5 Let your kindness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 You don’t need to worry. Instead, in everything, pray with an attitude of thankfulness and let God know your needs. 7 And the peace of God which goes beyond all human understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally my deeply loved brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is worthy of praise, if anything is excellent and praiseworthy – focus on those things. 9 Put into practice whatever learned, received, heard, or saw in me. And the peace of God will be with you.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. Who are the people who bring you joy in your life? Who are the people you bring joy to?

What spiritual practices can you discern? How are these incorporated into your spiritual journey?

2. How might the joy and love in verse 1 be related to Euodia and Syntche working things out?

3. Why would joy be a command? How does that work?

4. Why would the nearness or the return of the Lord be important in this situation?

5. The Apostle Paul has been careful about being a good example. Who in your life has been a good example? Particularly a good example of living a joy-filled life?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Thank the Lord that his joy is available to you always.

\*Ask the Spirit of God to give the power to choose joy today.

\*Ask the Lord to make you a vehicle for his joy today.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

The Apostle lets the church in Philippi know that living joy-filled life is not optional. Will people be able to see that you are connected to the Lord of joy?