

JOYFUL ATTITUDE



rejoice always (1 Thess 5:16)
sorrowful but always rejoicing (2 Cor 6:10)
in everything give thanks (1 Thess 5:18)
content in whatever circumstances I am (Phil 4:11)
do all things without complaining or arguing (Phil 2:14)

Apply the EXPLICIT AND IMPLICIT COMMANDS above to the four LIFE SITUATIONS below; e.g., rejoice always in discipline, persecution, testing, and blessing.

GOD'S WILL FOR YOU

in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus (1 Thess 5:18)

DISCIPLINE

seems not to be joyful
but sorrowful
(Heb 12:11)

PERSECUTION

to the degree that you share
the sufferings of Christ,
keep on rejoicing (1 Pet 4:13)

TESTING

consider it all joy when you
encounter various trials
(James 1:2)

BLESSING

rejoice in all your undertakings
in which the LORD your God
has blessed you (Deut 12:7)

HOW TO: Ask yourself, "Why should I be happy about this? Think of as many reasons as you can why you should rejoice, give thanks, be content, and not complain in discipline, persecution, testing, and blessing. Start with these:

- in discipline because "He disciplines us for our good" so we can enjoy "the peaceful fruit of righteousness" (Heb 12:10-11)
- in persecution because "your reward in heaven is great" (Matt 5:10-12; Luke 6:22-23)
- in testing because we will be "blessed" (James 1:3-4) and "receive the crown of life" (James 1:12; cf. Rev 2:10)
- in blessing "because the LORD your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you shall be altogether joyful" (Deut 16:15)

SPECIFIC EXAMPLES:

These are hard verses to apply,
make us different from the world,
make us like our heavenly Father,
and will be rewarded.

- rejoice when reviled and slandered (Matt 5:11-12),
- leap for joy when ostracized, insulted, and defamed (Luke 6:22-23),
- content with weaknesses, insults, calamities, persecutions, and difficulties (2 Cor 12:10),
- joy in the seizure of your property (Heb 10:34), and
- rejoice when beaten and imprisoned (Acts 5:40-41; 16:22-25)



Choose the SEQUENCE you would like to experience in times of discipline, persecution, or testing:

sorrow ▶ contentment ▶ joy ▶ rejoicing ▶ singing ▶ praise ▶ submission ▶ obedience ▶ growth ▶ rewards
OR

sorrow ▶ grumbling ▶ complaining ▶ anger ▶ rebellion ▶ blasphemy ▶ disobedience ▶ discipline ▶ loss of rewards