

MAIN POINT

True joy is found as we recognize that God is faithful to supply everything that we need and He has met our ultimate need by sending Jesus Christ.

INTRODUCTION

Why would you say gratitude is important?

What does it indicate is going on in our hearts when we have difficulty finding reasons to be grateful?

As we discussed this week, a spirit of ungratefulness often indicates that we believe we deserve better than we have received. For those following Christ, a lack of gratitude may be an indication that we believe that God is withholding something from us, even if we don't immediately recognize this is what we are believing. In today's passage, Paul exhorted his readers to continually rejoice and give thanks to God, who supplies our every need.

DISCUSSION

> READ PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7.

Why is it important to see that "rejoicing" is a command? Does that mean that you have to be happy about whatever is happening in your life?

What do we demonstrate about Jesus when we rejoice in Him even when our circumstances are going badly?

What role does prayer play in our ability to rejoice in the Lord?

Why is it essential that we both give thanks and let our requests be made known to God?

How does it change your relationship with the Lord to know and admit what's truly in your heart?

What does Paul say will happen when we devote ourselves to praying to God about our troubles (v. 7)?

Why is the kind of peace described here beyond understanding?

APPLICATION

How specifically will you seek to grow in gratitude this week? How will you utilize prayer and conversation with other believers to cultivate this gratitude?