

**NOVEMBER 12, 2006 “RECIPE FOR JOY & PEACE OF MIND!”
PHILIPPIANS 4:1-9**

INTRO: HAVING JOY GOING INTO THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS

I. WHAT IS JOY TO YOU?

- A. For Paul, true joy comes from peace of mind.
- B. Paul’s recipe for joy & Peace of mind
(1) prayer (2) Thankfulness (3) positive thinking (4) practical living.
- C. What robs us of joy?
 - 1. Antagonism
 - 2. Anxiety

II. INSTRUCTIONS TO WITHSTAND THE ONSLAUGHT OF ANTAGONISM AND ANXIETY
Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends! Philippians 4:1

A. ANTAGONISM

- 1. *I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow, help these women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.*
Philippians 4:2,3

B. ANXIETY

- ⁴Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything.*
Philippians 4:4-6

III. HOW TO HANDLE ANXIETY

Parents whose child is a combat zone? *By prayer and petition. but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.* Philippians 4:7

IV. PEACE OF MIND

A. THE PEACE OF GOD

⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:7

B. POSITIVE THINKING

⁸Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:8,9

C. WE NEED ALL THE INGREDIENTS TO THE RECIPE FOR JOY & PEACE OF MIND

CONCLUSION: MEMORIAL PLAZA GROUND-BREAKING

STUDY GUIDE

“RECIPE FOR JOY AND PEACE OF MIND”

STEWARDSHIP MEANS “UTILIZING AND MANAGING ALL RESOURCES GOD PROVIDES FOR THE GLORY OF GOD AND THE BETTERMENT OF THE LORD’S CREATION.” IF YOU HAVE NOT RETURNED TO THE CHURCH YOUR 2007 ESTIMATE OF GIVING, PLEASE DO SO THIS SUNDAY...THANKS!

MONDAY -- Read Philippians 4:1-10 again. Notice how important “Peace of Mind” was to the apostle Paul. He shouted out “Do not be anxious about anything, but in all things present your prayers & Petitions to God.” For Paul, and for Jesus before him, we should not be “anxious” about money! God will provide for us (Luke 12:24-32) and we will be happier when we realize that we are to be ‘stewards’ of our wealth (for it belongs to God) rather than thinking we are ‘owners’ of it.

TUESDAY -- When God created humans, He made them to have “dominion” over all of the earth (Gen. 1:26). Dominion was not intended to be domination or exploitation. Dominion was God’s call for human beings to be good and gracious managers (or stewards) of God’s creation. Unfortunately, the sin of humanity interrupted God’s plans for His world. Humankind became selfish, seeing the world as a means to its own self-centered ends. The things of the world were now seen as possessions with humans as owners, not as God’s stewards.

WEDNESDAY-- The call to absolute commitment to Christ is the central theme of the New Testament (Mark 8:34-36) and involves total stewardship. Of course this obedience was not meant to be heavy and gloom and doom, but joyous! God loves as cheerful giver☺ The apostle Paul preached and taught a single-minded commitment to Christ. He reminded the Philippians that the source of thanksgiving was not in things but in our relationship to God in Christ (Phil. 3:13-14). Thus, the New Testament concept of stewardship centers in our commitment to Jesus Christ. When He becomes our Lord, He becomes Lord of our time, talents, finances, and everything. We are not our own, but we are bought with a price.

THURSDAY -- Tithing: A tenth part, especially as offered to God. Generally the tithe refers to the ‘first 10th of a person’s income’ given to the work of the local church. In the OT, the tithe was subject to a variety of legislation. (Numbers 18:20-32) (Deut. 14:22-27). The same code stipulated a tithe for care of the Levites, orphans, widows, and foreigners (Deut. 14:28-29). (Malachi 3:8) equates neglect of the tithe with robbing God. Jesus, however, taught that strict tithing must accompany concern for the more important demands of the law, namely, for just and merciful living (Matt. 23:23; Luke 11:42).

FRIDAY -- The Bible has two basic attitudes toward wealth. In the first place, wealth is acknowledged to be a blessing from God. This can be seen from the witness of the Old Testament. God chose Abram and promised to bless him and make his name great (Gen. 12:1-3). (Gen. 13:2). (Gen. 26:12-14) (1 Kings 3:13; 10:23) (Job 42:12). These few examples do not allow us to assume that poverty is a sign of God’s disfavor. Jesus’ stated that life does not consist of one’s possessions (Luke 12:15).