

Rejoice Always: In the Challenging



This week we recognize that life is sometimes challenging and it's often harder to find the time, space, and emotional energy to rejoice with God. And yet, these are the moments we most need to lean on our relationship with the one who has created us and never leaves our side.

- First let me say, Thank you Lord Jesus.

It all started last December with surgery to remove a cancerous cell from my breast. The good Lord was with me and I felt His presence and leaned on Him. I came through with flying colors and a thankful heart with my faith intact.

Then my husband got COVID and was hospitalized, then I got COVID and was hospitalized. January 4 I came home, January 6 the love of my life passed away. It has been 10 months now. It is hard living without him, but every day I am not alone, the Holy Spirit is always with me. I rely on my faith and call on it every day.

There was a time when I was crying so much I thought I lost my faith. I called Pastor Chelsea and she reminded me that even Jesus cried when his friend Lazarus died.

I am still a faith-based Christian thanking God every day for the blessing He has given me.

Marilyn S.

While not all our situations are like Marilyn's, we have all certainly experienced an amount of loss in the last two years. Whether it was the death of a person we loved, loss of how things used to be, or even grief around changing situations with jobs and family, we all have moments where life is hard.

In these moments, we lean on and trust in a God who never abandons us – and in that we rejoice – always.

Take some time this week to reflect on how you've seen God in the more challenging moments of your life. How will you be sure to rejoice with God in the hard times in the future?

Rejoice Always

SEEK IN PRAYER GOD'S WILL FOR YOUR GIVING

What do we tend to do when the church asks for our support?

The common tendency is to consult our spouse, our budget, our bills, our income, our tax situation, our investments, our accountant, etc., and then determine what we can afford or spare.

Instead we should, as Christians, seek to discover what God's will is for us in our giving. A Christian pledge can really only be made on our knees, seeking God's will in fervent prayer.

Prayer is an integral part of the Christian life. The decision on how much to give should not be made without seeking first in prayer what God would have us do and listening for the voice of God in the prayer conversation.

Giving to the church is not a financial transaction. Instead, giving to the church is a spiritual exercise undertaken only after conversation with God.

