
EDWARD
CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Southern Sunday
HOLY
BIBLE

JOY THAT BREAKS THROUGH THE CLOUDS

Edward Church

PHILIPPIANS 4:4–5

Rejoice in the Lord always.

I will say it again: Rejoice!

Let your gentleness be evident to all.

The Lord is near.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6–7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation,
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,
present your requests to God.
And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

THE CLOUDS WE FACE

1. Grief That Will Not Lift

2. Circumstances Beyond Our Control

3. A Heart That Has Forgotten How To Rejoice.

deep challenge #1

Have you been waiting for your CIRCUMSTANCES to change before you DECIDE to have JOY?

CONGREGATION

I have the joy—

of the Lord!

I have the joy—

of the Lord!

I have the joy—

of the Lord!

JOY IS NOT HAPPINESS

HAPPINESS	JOY
Depends on circumstances	Rooted in God's promises
Fades when trouble comes	Endures the storm
A feeling.	A choice.

Deep Challenge #2

We have been chasing happiness — and wondering why joy keeps escaping us.

CONGREGATION

This joy I have—

The world didn't give it!

This joy I have—

The world can't take it away!

THE SOURCE THAT NEVER RUNS DRY

1. Joy flows from intimacy with God.

2. Prayer replaces anxiety with peace. — *Phil. 4:6*

3. Thanksgiving opens the gates of joy.

4. The Lord Himself is our strength. — Neh. 8:10

deep challenge #3

When is the last time you praised God
in the middle of your storm...
...not after it?

CONGREGATION

Weeping may endure for a night—

But JOY comes in the morning!

— Psalm 30:5

JOY THAT PERSEVERES

1. Tested & Proven — refined through trials. James 1:2–4

2. Guarded by Peace — God's peace stands watch.

3. Renewed Daily — His mercies are new every morning. Lam. 3:22–23

deep challenge #4

What are you allowing to steal your joy today and ... are you ready to take it back?

CONGREGATION

"The enemy came to steal, kill and destroy—"

But Jesus came that we might have LIFE!

"And what kind of life?"

LIFE MORE ABUNDANTLY!

— John 10:10

GUARD YOUR JOY

1. Choose what you MEDITATE ON. — *Phil. 4:8*
2. Guard your ASSOCIATIONS — seeds of despair spread.
3. Speak LIFE over YOUR SITUATION.
4. Worship is a WEAPON — deploy it daily.

deep challenge #5

Joy is not waiting for you
on the other side of your
breakthrough —
it IS your breakthrough.

CONGREGATION

Can you praise Him right now — RIGHT NOW?

HALLELUJAH!

Can you rejoice in the Lord?

ALWAYS!

— Philippians 4:4

TAKE THIS WITH YOU

1. Joy is a choice, **NOT** a feeling.
2. Circumstances cannot hold joy **HOSTAGE**.
3. Prayer and thanksgiving are the **PATH** to peace.
4. Praise in the storm **BREAKS** the clouds.
5. The joy of the Lord **IS** your strength.

AN INVITATION

If joy has felt far away —

if the clouds have been heavy —

Jesus is near.

He is the source of a joy that no cloud can extinguish.

COME **RECEIVE** **REJOICE**

ALTAR DECLARATION

Jesus, I place my burdens in Your hands.

I receive Your peace in the middle of this storm.

I will rejoice before my circumstances change.

My hope rests in You, now and always.

THE JOY OF THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH!

In Jesus' name, amen!



Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him.

Romans 15:13