



A Joyful December
Living Above the Clutter of Christmas
Philippians 4:4-7

Dr. Mike Fabarez • Focal Point Radio Ministries • December 6 & 7, 2014 • Msg. 14-38 • Social Media: #aJoyfulDecember

1. Keep _____ (vv.4-5)

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. **5** Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; **6** do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **7** And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

2. See _____ (v.6)

3. Expect _____ (v.7)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others.

1. What are some of the things that make this time of year harried, stressful, and difficult for you? Which "holiday expectations" are tough for you simply because you are a Christian?
2. Read **Luke 10:38-42**. How might this directive to Martha be applied to your December, knowing that a number of important temporal responsibilities must be attended to throughout the month?
3. Read **Matthew 6:25-34**. What aspects of this teaching from Christ are most urgent for you to remember this time of year? How can you keep these promises in the forefront of your mind throughout the month?
4. Read **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**. What prompts will you utilize to purposefully and thoughtfully engage in all three of these commanded disciplines? Think practically about how, when, and where you will practice each of these.
5. Read **Habakkuk 3:17-19**. What are some of the characteristics of a mature relationship with God that make this response in this setting possible?

This Week's Bible Reading Schedule

December 7th

Dan.9-10 & 2Jn.

December 8th

Dan.11-12 & 3Jn.

December 9th

Hos.1-4 & Jude

December 10th

Hos.5-8 & Rev.1

December 11th

Hos.9-11 & Rev.2

December 12th

Hos.12-14 & Rev.3

December 13th

Joel 1-3 & Rev.4

December 14th

Amos 1-3 & Rev.5

The following related sermons are also available for free as mp3 downloads or audio streaming on the Focal Point Website (FocalPointMinistries.org).

Msg. 05-41 – **How to Celebrate Christmas**

Msg. 13-25 – **Sorrow & Profound Celebrations**

Msg. 06-38 – **Acquiring Strength & Stamina from an Omnipotent God**

Msg. 08-19 – **Gospel Crazy: Joyful About Its Progress**

Msg. 07-35 – **Contentment Instead of Materialism**

Msg. 13-12 – **Curbing Your Appetites**

Msg. 01-35 – 01-37 – **Prayer 101** (a three-part series on the discipline of prayer)

This Week's Social Media Hashtag

#aJoyfulDecember

For users of Twitter, Facebook, or other social media sites for the grouping of sermon quotes, helpful insights, or your sharable applications drawn from today's sermon.

Here are some books which may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Mike cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

Barclay, William B. **The Secret of Contentment**. P & R Publishing, 2011.

Burroughs, Jeremiah. **The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment**. Reprint. Banner of Truth, 1981.

Eastman, Dick. **No Easy Road: Inspirational Thoughts on Prayer**. Baker Books, 1971.

Hiebert, D. Edmond. **Working with God Through Intercessory Prayer**. BJU Press, 1991.

Lindsell, Harold. **When You Pray**. Tyndale House, 1969.

Lloyd-Jones, Martyn. **A Life of Joy and Peace: An Exposition of Philippians**. Baker Books, 1995.

Lutz, Susan. **Thankfulness: Even When It Hurts**. P & R, 2002.

MacArthur, John. **Anxious for Nothing: God Cares for the Cares of Your Soul**. Victor Books, 2006.

Mitchell, Curtis C. **Praying Jesus' Way: A New Approach to Personal Prayer**. Revell Co., 1977.

Moody, D. L. **Prevailing Prayer**. Moody Press, 1987.

Mueller, George. **Answers to Prayer: From George Muller's Narratives**. Moody Press, 1984.

Spurgeon, Charles. **Power in Praising God**. Whitaker House, 1998.

Strauss, Lehman. **Sense and Nonsense About Prayer**. Moody Press, 1974.

Wiersbe, Warren. **This is the Life: Enjoying the Blessings and Privileges of Faith in Christ**. Bakers Books, 2014.

Wilson, Doug. **Joy at the End of the Tether: The Inscrutable Wisdom of Ecclesiastes**. Canon Press, 1999.