

4 August 2019

Joy

Philippians 4.4-10



Over next three weeks joy, patience, peace..



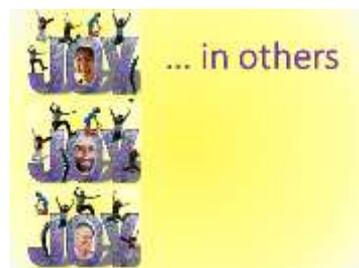
What gives us joy?



... video while we think ...



Answers from congregation ...



Other people bring us joy ...

... who they are, what they do, what they say ...



We find pleasure in things that are 'beautiful',
... music ... scenery ... sport ...



... some enjoyment is enjoyment from getting involved ... doing things ... or simply the pleasure of being immersed in something ...



In our reading we were encouraged to 'Rejoice in the Lord always.'

Joy is one of the gifts of the Spirit ...



Finding joy in who God is ...

In African churches – 'God is good' 'All the time'; 'All the time,' 'God is good.'



... everything that is good and beautiful comes from God ... so to rejoice in God's world is to rejoice in God ...

Paul – whatever is true, noble, pure, lovely, admirable ... think about such things.



... God invites us to share in his life, to participate in his work



So – Rejoice in the Lord ... always ...

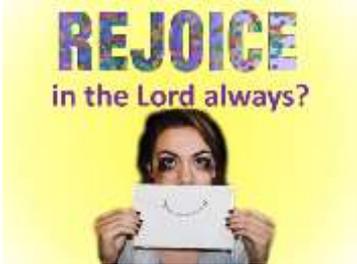


But what about when things go wrong?

Sorrow is real for us.



Rejoice in the Lord always ... but is it OK to be sad?



Or do we have to put a false face on?

Do we have to pretend to be happy, when we are not?

I think it is possible to rejoice in the Lord always, and also have times of real sadness.



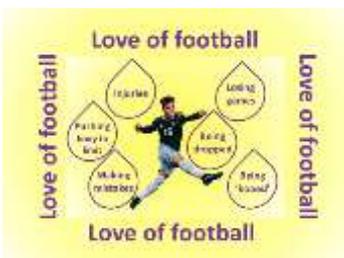
I want us to think about a footballer, who plays football for the love of football.

Playing football things will go wrong. What could possibly go wrong?



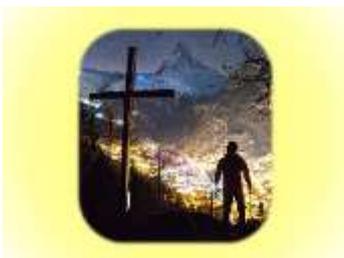
These are the things that I came up with ...

... these are just part and parcel of playing football that any footballer is going to have to put up with ...



All of this is going on within his or her love of football.

The hurt at defeat is genuine and real ... and yet she/he loves the game of football.



Here is an image to depict a Christian, a follower of Jesus.

What could go wrong in their life?



I have come up with all of these things that could go wrong ... and will go wrong for everyone who is following Jesus.

And the hurt and pain will be genuine and real and at times will feel quite overwhelming.



And yet we hold all of that within our sure knowledge that God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good.



And so we rejoice in the Lord always ...

