

12th of January

Before we get into today's matter, anyone want to share an experience they've had this week that relates with the topic, Rejoice?

Maybe a time it was impossible to be joyful or how you were joyful despite the circumstances.

Anyone?

answers:

* You all know how costly transport is in Abuja... I go out virtually everyday and spend nothing less than #600... I had #5000 with me since Jan 3 and only for me to check my purse yesterday and still saw 1400 and I was wondering...what's happening...5k has refused to finish and av not even made use of the ATM all...like I go out everyday...there are days I spend 900 in a day and Balance is still remaining 1400...it's shocking...since January 3 000.....most times when going out and I think of the fare I'll be so confused coz there's no allowance, no source of income but God has been indeed miraculous

*OK sir.. Some what last year.. We had financial challenges at home...

Right abt when I had to resume school..

It got frustrating... I couldn't stay with the thought of maybe I'll have to drop out of school
But God actually actually did me..

I heard his word coming just when I needed it...

My heart became lightened from burden..

No money, but I was so joyful.. Eventually money came.

.God provided

* It was during my 300level days... I had issues with school fee... No money at all, I called home money was not feasible at all, In those times I still had the faith, still read my books and attend

lectures, and everything seems perfect and normal until it was a week to exams still nothing was forthcoming! One of my friend and I decided to go to the Christian Union auditorium to read and we just switched to praises and right there and God did miracles..

Finally,

Let's check out the line between *faking it and rejoicing.*

Rejoicing is not ignoring the situation.

Rejoicing is not refusing to accept the situation.

Rejoicing is not lying about the pain.

Rejoicing is not saying 'I am fine' when you are not fine.

Rejoicing is not faking it.

Let's go a little tangent.

...Thou shall honour your father and mother...

This scripture doesn't mean that *you must always agree with them*.

If they ask you to do anything outside the scriptures, *you can refuse but still honour.*

Point is even when you are not obeying them because it's contrary to God's word, *your attitude still shows submission.*

Back to rejoice matter..

So, you may not have it all together, you identify the issue, but you don't *respond* to it with sorrow..or even when you do, you change that response.

So, you are driving in the morning and your car gets bash bad.

You come out and laugh out loud, pat the reckless driver on the back and ask him to be careful next time.

You get into your car and you play a jolly song and you laugh to your destination.

Except that's how the Holy Spirit is leading you (which is possible), but that's not the default joy, I am talking about.

So yes, you are upset.

You require that Mr Reckless does something about it.

After agreeing, you get into your ride, put up a jolly song and CHOOSE NOT to allow that incident kill your joy or discolor your day. That is joy.

Yes, you have to get money to make the repair and you think about it, not worry about it.

You could worry about it..in fact that's the easy and logical thing to do, but *you choose to live by faith*, you rejoice!

You write an exam you put your best into.

Result shows, it's not what you expect. You failed.

Naturally.

Option 1. Worry.

Option 2. Rejoice.

So, yes you don't like the result, but you choose to respond in a calm manner (joyful manner).

Scriptures says "... *in* all things, give thanks"

Not " *FOR* all things... "

So, it isn't so much about the circumstance but about your response.

Let's check out Oga David in the scriptures.

Psalm 22 is one of the psalms that showed the times Oga was in a complain mood.

Psalm 22.

1. My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?

2. O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent.

Here David was stating how he felt to God.

Psalm 22.

7. All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head saying,

8. He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him

David pointed how all them *'what will people say'* things here.

So, he wasn't saying these things do not exist, he mentioned them to God..

Then as the psalm begins to end, his tone changes..

Psalm 22.

22. I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee.

If you can read the whole psalm

Remember how we started?

How meditation, focusing on God's word and all can bring about joy?

So, David told God how things were.

No money.

No food.

Exam is one kina.

Bad result.

No admission.

David was straight up with God.

He wasn't denying what was happening.

Then, he took his eyes off his issues and placed it on God.

Psalm 22.

19. But be not thou far from me, O LORD: O my strength, haste thee to help me.

20. Deliver my soul from the sword; my darling from the power of the dog. 21. Save me from the lion's mouth: for thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns.

He stated his prayer. He stated what he wanted.

Then as he focused on God, his heart gave in to praise!

So, when we say rejoice we say change the natural response order.

Option 1: Rejoice

Option 2: Rejoice.

Any question or clarification?

question: Does rejoicing have anything to do with one's temperament? Especially for a Mel who seldom has a mood switch and a Phleg who is most times pessimistic. ...

answer: Thank you.

I was going to mention that.

Now this mood swings are psychological analysis which are true

However, there is something ERM...I think Dale Carnegie, calls the Holy Spirit Temperament or so.

We shouldn't be ruled by our temperament.

Because you are Phleg doesn't mean you have to be pessimistic. ♂

As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing. As poor, yet making many rich, as having nothing and yet possessing all things." (2 COR 6:1- 12)

This is how we live.

"Melancholy sadness paralyzes one, but do not be overcome with evil, *but overcome evil with good*." (ROMANS 12:21)

So, if you know a weakness attached to your temperament, remind yourself of Romans 12:1- 2, "...by the renewing of your mind..."

Galatians 5:22 speaks of characters we should develop

Like David, constantly remind yourself of God's faithfulness, goodness and compassion.

Allow me remind you,

Whether it's good, bad, ugly, nice, fine..whatever, ensure your joy is intact.

Rejoicing brings strength!

Rejoicing brings clarity!

Rejoicing brings receiving!!!

Again, I pray that,

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." Romans 15:13

In Jesus name!!!

I want to ask that everyone spend some time praising God tonight.

Just rejoice in all that He has promised you. Rejoice in all that He has done. Rejoice in the things you are expecting!!!

Rejoice in the Lord!!!