

# Rejoice Always

80 Devotions with Joy Ridderhof

Celebrating 80 Years  
of God's Faithfulness

Global Recordings  
NETWORK



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**[GlobalRecordingsUSA.org](http://GlobalRecordingsUSA.org)**

# Joy's Introduction

I have a deep conviction that wherever — no matter how restricted by circumstance — a song of praise goes up and up from loving hearts consistently, in continual thanksgiving for all He sends through trial or pain, it shall reach even unto the end of the earth.



*Joy listening to a new recording*

No walls can hinder it, no vault can retain it, no distance can deter it, hot suns cannot wither it, nor pelting rains drown it.

This new song, made fresher and sweeter because of the circumstances that would bind it, shall carry His praise throughout earth's circuit.

Try to hold it back, try to smother it, try to clip its wings! So long as we permit this song of faith by the power of His Spirit to soar out from us, it cannot be quenched until its sound has gone into all the world.

*Joy Ridderhof, 1978*

# Global Recordings Network

*Formerly Gospel Recordings*

**T**he vision that compelled Joy Ridderhof was that scene in Revelation 7:9: “a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.” It continues to be the current passion of Global Recordings Network (founded by Joy in 1939 as Gospel Recordings).

Global Recordings Network (GRN)

currently has offices in over 40 countries and the gospel message recorded in audio in over 6,400 languages. There are over 12,000 heart languages spoken in the world today and the challenge to make the gospel understandable in all of them remains immense.

With two-thirds of the world living as oral communicators, audio recordings are a proven resource. The replaying of messages helps people learn and remember Biblical truth and changes their lives.



*Recording the good news in the jungle of Brazil*



*Joy and Sanna playing a record*

Current technology makes it easier than ever to obtain, transport, and share these audio tracts.

While GRN organizes many of its own outreaches, the primary use of our materials is through other missions, missionaries, and



*Sharing the gospel with a Good News flip chart and a Saber player*

Christians everywhere who want to share the good news to people speaking a different language than their own.

GRN continues to train missionaries in many countries to be recordists using high-quality digital equipment and Biblical scripts suited to the need and worldview of the language groups in which they are working. The Bible stories include explanations, applications, invitations to accept Christ, and basic teaching on the Christian life. From the Amazon to the Himalayas these recordist teams work with bilingual speakers in minority language groups to spread the gospel to those who cannot read and need to hear of Jesus in their own language.

We all look forward to that day of rejoicing in heaven with the multitudes from every language who have repented and believed the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. This continued work depends on the grace of God and the support and prayers of faithful partners. For more information about the global work Joy Ridderhof began 80 years ago, visit ***GlobalRecordingsUSA.org***.

# 1

**T**he basis for rejoicing is obvious. In fact, the evidence is overwhelming. Everything we see of God's handiwork—every suggestion of His power, every reminder of His love—all these persuade us to trust God implicitly.

The design of His plan, which we can trace back through the years in our own lives—and the lives of others—is also proof to us that God's way is best. But if our eyes have become dimmed and if our memories fail, we have yet a myriad of reminders before us in the Word of God. We have enough to employ our thoughts with love and praise throughout our whole lives. Let us put our stakes deep into this fact, *God is love*.

Abraham took one promise and banked everything on it. He gave glory to God on the basis that God would fulfill his Word; and having believed, he was steadfast to the end.

We do not have just one promise, but many, and each is just as true as the one given to Abraham. Furthermore, we have centuries and centuries of experiences behind us of those that have proved God and have found Him faithful.

With this great cloud of witnesses let us hold fast our faith and rejoicing firm unto the end.

*In everything, count it all joy.*

## 2

**D**o God's children ever become discouraged and feel like giving up? Yes, many times. But this is never God's plan. He has a far better way. God wants us always to be full of joy and rejoicing.

We must remember that our joy and happiness is not found in things that happen to us. But our joy is in the fact that Jesus is Saviour and He lives within our heart; and God is our Father who constantly watches over us. No harm or illness can come except God allows it. No loss or misfortune comes without God understanding it. Our Heavenly Father loves us more than we can imagine, and He is able to give us all we need. We must learn that what He sends to us is the very best thing for us. Then we can always rejoice and be glad.

So when the next disappointment comes your way, say "Thank you, Jesus, for giving me this disappointment. I know you sent it to me for a purpose. It is the very best thing for me." Then let Jesus cheer you and give you real joy. He loves to do it for His children.

*Even in disappointment, count it all joy.*

### 3

In the 106th Psalm we find these two contrasting phrases: *They did not believe his promise. They grumbled in their tents...* and, *Then they believed his promises and sang his praise.*

Here lies the secret of the rejoicing life—it is in believing His words. In the army during the war they posted an ironic sign, “If you don’t like it here, resign.” The Israelites should have said, “Let’s like it or turn back.” And of course they couldn’t turn back any more than our soldiers could resign. But they kept on murmuring and all it did for them was to keep them going round and round, right in the wilderness that they hated.

Murmuring is the opposite of rejoicing. Unbelief causes murmuring. Murmuring is sin. When we really believe God, we burst forth into praise. We need no other proof than His Word.

The sooner we begin to believe God’s Word and thank Him by faith, the sooner our hearts will be warmed in the realization that His word is true and that the answer is on the way. Paul said, “My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” A writer has said,

What a source, God! What a supply, His riches in glory!  
What a channel, Christ Jesus! It is your sweet privilege  
to place all your need over against His riches. His  
exhaustless treasury is thrown open to you. Go and draw  
upon it in the artless simplicity of faith and you will never  
have occasion to lean upon a...prop.

*Even when you’re in a wilderness, count it all joy.*

# 4

*As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing.*

I believe there are two things sadly lacking among God's people today. One is that we do not sorrow, and the other is that we do not rejoice. Oh yes, we do sorrow. People are borne down with grief because of the loss of loved ones, because of frustrations, or hurts of one kind or another that affect them personally; but they give very small proportion of their attention to the sorrow that stabs the heart of God, the grief that pierced the Saviour on the cross. They do not have a deep concern for the millions of lost souls who are without Christ—at least not enough to drive them to hours of intercessory prayer or to count everything else of little importance in comparison to reaching them for Christ.

And they do not know how to rejoice. Yes, we are elated and pleased when we have our own way. But we are stingy in praising God for all the visible blessings and benefits He pours down upon us each day, to say nothing of rejoicing in adversity. Instead of rejoicing in the hurts, injustices and losses that come, many nurse them, meditate on them—give so much time to their grief there is no time left for intercession or for reaching the unreached.

Rejoice in your tribulation. Have a heart at leisure from itself that you may fellowship in Christ's sufferings, by giving time for the souls He died to redeem.

And as you pray—believe and be glad.

*Even when you must do it by faith, count it all joy.*

# 5

**A** friend of mine used to say, “If only I could understand this trial, it would not be so hard.” Amy Carmichael said, “I cannot recall a single explanation of trial—we are trusted with the unexplained.”

May God enable us to live in patience and rejoicing, so that the trial of our faith may be found unto praise and glory at the appearing of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, whom having not seen we love...yet believing we rejoice.

We believe, and therefore we rejoice. Faith which is not expressed in gladness lacks its inherent quality.

There are many reasons why I rejoice, but I wish to just mention one which makes me consider it a sin not to do it. Rejoicing is our way of expressing confidence in Christ in all that He does. Not to rejoice is not to believe—not to believe is not to love.

Having not seen we rejoice. Just so, faith which calls *the things which are not, as though they were*, rejoices in the glorious reality of the unseen.

Keep up the song of faith, however dark the night,  
And as you praise, the Lord will work,  
to change your faith to sight.

*Even when you don't see, count it all joy.*

## 6

**T**here are some people who can never see how or why they should give thanks for things they don't like or don't understand. Usually, these are folks who often wear a cast-down or fretful look, or whose words do not always carry the spring of victory.

When I see they cannot take it in, as yet, to rejoice by faith, I stress to them all the positive things which could consume their thought in praise. I mention the blessings of every day which we all share—the sunshine and rain, water, air. Then we talk of the One who paid such a great price to set us free, whose Name is Love.

*Let us be thankful for all life's leanness here below.  
For all earth's little heartbreaks and despairs,  
For every loss sustained that I might know  
How much, how very much, my Father cares.  
Thankful for every wound unto my pride,  
For all ambitions of the flesh that failed,  
For poverty and pain, and dreams denied  
To teach me how completely Christ prevailed.  
"In everything give thanks" seems hard at first,  
But oh, it is the gate through which I see —  
When men forsake and life has done its worst—  
The Christ of God Who hung on Calvary  
And gave me so much to be thankful for.  
Though all else fail, how could I ask for more?  
— Helen Frazee-Bower*

*In everything, count it all joy.*

# 7

I am sure some of you must think, “If Joy only knew my trouble she would not say, *Rejoice*.” Dear one, I do know how deep heartaches can go. I know how fiery trials can be. I do not believe in this life we will get to the place where we will not feel these hurts, these cruel wounds that gash our hearts. But according to the measure that we can look steadfastly in His dear face and trust Him and praise Him—in that proportion they will be made more endurable. Yes, and in that proportion they will result in blessings and eternal fruitfulness. Afterward they will yield the peaceable fruits of righteousness—thirty, sixty or a hundred-fold.

*So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.*

Right around the corner a surprise is waiting—don’t give up. Right over the brow of this hill, you will have a glimpse of sunshine country. Fill that cup with praise! Tell Jesus your thanks before you see the answer—you can even thank Him for this hard thing.

Sing your assurance in the night and chains will drop off, iron gates will yield, and the answer will come in such a manner that you will scarcely be able to contain your joy.

*He is silently planning for you in love.*

*Even when it tries your patience, count it all joy.*

## 8

**W**hile we were in the Philippines in 1950 we had a time trying to record the 90 different languages of those islands. Over and over again we had trouble with our recording equipment. In between attempts to fix it, and prayer over it, we would go back to test and see if it was working. In doing so, we would often sing joyful choruses.

The Word says, *For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.* What a thought. These very hindrances and testings are working for us. As we rejoice they become our servants to work in us the glory of God and the fulfillment of our heart's desires.

Sometimes, frankly, it seemed as though it would be much more in the Lord's interest to let the equipment work smoothly and thus avoid delays and expenditures which seemed unnecessary. We would think, "What good can come out of this?" However, He has not promised to explain His doings but has asked us to rejoice in them—so we did, by faith.

Often we meet people who say, "Reading *Mountains Singing* has taught me to trust in the Lord." At least two of our GR workers have come to us as a result of reading the account of those many trials in the Philippines, and letters through the years have told of hundreds of souls who have been saved through hearing the records which were made then. This gives overwhelming evidence that rejoicing makes devoted servants out of our difficulties.

*Even when testings are hard, count it all joy.*

# 9

**A**s a missionary in Honduras, I spent most of my years in a mountain station far removed from co-workers. It was not an uneventful life. People were set free from their evil ways. On the other hand, the enemy of souls constantly harassed the Christians.

I had learned never to look at second causes but always to joyfully receive everything directly from God's hand. My soul was often tried, but I believed that all the trials would only serve to bring more blessing, more results and to strengthen our faith.

But there was so little I could do against the forces of evil that were constantly arrayed against us. I had no power and I had no access to any form of earthly justice or protection. I was cast on the Lord.

This verse meant worlds to me: *...no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways.* (Is. 64:4-5)

Ever afterwards it has been a principle that has yielded much fruit. Not *God helps those who help themselves*, but *God works for those who wait for Him, who trust Him—who rejoice in His faithfulness.*

I have seen God perform so many wonderful things as the result of waiting with praise. If any great thing has ever come to us, it is quite likely we would say, "All we did was to pray and rejoice. God did it." Our part is to wait joyously and know He will do it.

*Even when you are helpless, count it all joy.*

# 10

**I**n Isaiah 48 we read, *Announce this with shouts of joy and proclaim it. Send it out to the ends of the earth; say, 'The Lord has redeemed his servant Jacob.'*

Announce it with joy, tell it with gladness!

Keep rejoicing in your spirit throughout your daily tasks. Put cheer into your everyday voice when you answer the phone—in the office, the store—speak with the ring of hope and faith. If you can't wear a smile on your face, carry one in your voice. It's a command, *Utter it with a voice of singing — for the Lord hath redeemed.* Note the past tense. Miriam said, *Sing praises unto the Lord for He hath triumphed gloriously. The horse and his rider hath He thrown into the sea.*

Every false sect says *do*. Our Book says *done*. He has overthrown your enemy. He has redeemed you. He has already promised the good you seek. He has made provision for your present need. *Sing—for the Lord has done it.*

Tell it with a voice of singing—to your family, your neighbors—and to the ends of the earth. It's a wonderful story to tell. It's a wonderful song to sing.

*Even when you don't feel like it, count it all joy.*

# 11

**A**re you rejoicing?

Upon a broken limb that swings  
There sits a bird that sings  
Knowing it has wings.

I have a friend in New Zealand who had a great deal of illness and nervous trouble. She knew she should rejoice always, but thought a little reminder would help her. So she trained her parakeet to say, "Rejoice, rejoice, Thora!" Sometimes she did not feel in the mood, but the bird would chirp out glibly, "Thora, Thora, where are you? Rejoice, Thora, rejoice!"

Jesus often gave us rejoicing reminders: *Fear not, only believe. Have faith in God. Be of good cheer.*

When Ann Sherwood and I were going to Mexico in 1944, we had a terrific demonstration of how a circumstance that seemed to be fatal to our recording trip was just a forerunner of one of the most exciting answers to prayer we have ever had. After that, as never before, we said, "No matter what comes, let us remind one another to rejoice." And we did. I lost my purse...rejoice, Joy. We had some flat tires...rejoice. We were delayed in the country because of the war...Thank you, Lord Jesus.

And as a result of that trip, the various tribes have heard the gospel over and over, and many have been saved. Soar up above the smog and noise and distress about you, into the clear blue of God's heaven through the wings of praise!

*Even in distress, count it all joy.*

# 12

**M**oses and the children of Israel, after crossing the Red Sea, sang, *I will sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea.* And Miriam answered, *Sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted.*

They had good reason for singing for they had just been delivered from the Egyptians after all those years of bondage. When Israel saw the enemy dead on the seashore, they believed the Lord. They believed because they saw. But Jesus says, *Blessed are those who have not seen, and yet have believed.*

I have often thought how wonderful it would have been if the children of Israel could have sung and danced to the Lord before they crossed the Red Sea—before they saw the great deliverance. God has promised it and that should have sufficed.

When we were in Africa, near Egypt and the Red Sea, this thought was emphasized. We too were looking to God for a miraculous deliverance in connection with our work in Ethiopia. Thereupon, our little band decided that we would not wait until we saw before we sang, but we would sing now in faith for what God would do.

It was two and a half years after this before we saw the deliverance. During that interval the prospect of success often became very dim, but we continued to praise Him for what we believed He would do. We counted it as done. We sang in praise of the yet unseen triumph. And then one day He showed it to us, before our eyes. And now records are going out to Ethiopia in many languages.

*Even when you see no answer, count it all joy.*

# 13

*Spring up, O well!*

**T**he children of Israel were famished and without water. They were advised to sing for it; they did so and water flowed. They dug deep into the burning earth and as they dug they sang, *Spring up, O well, sing about it.* And, as *Streams in the Desert* says, “Lo there came a gurgling sound, a rush of water and a flowing stream.”

How did they reach this well? It was by praise. In East Africa we traveled for many weeks in the dry season, and everything was parched and arid. There were no evergreens to relieve the landscape and we often would see women returning with their meager supplies of water, carried in bottles on their heads, after a considerable walk to one of the sparse water holes. Then all of a sudden, in the middle of the desert, we saw a tree—the leaves just fluttering in the breeze as though showing off its sparkling green dress. What a thing of beauty and refreshment it was. There must be a secret—its roots had surely tapped a hidden spring.

Today, no matter your environment or circumstances, no matter whom you live with or work with, you can display the joyous dress of His sufficiency. Your situation may be as dry and unyielding and fruitless as the desert. Sing about it and water will flow.

Praise your Savior that His promise is true, and your faith and rejoicing will touch the spot that will bring His blessing into your thirsty soul. “You waited for deliverance, O Soul, you waited long, Believe that now deliverance does wait for you in song.”

*Even when you find it hard to sing, count it all joy.*

# 14

*For [as] the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

- Isaiah 55:9

**W**hen I came home from the mission field in 1936, with a sick body, none of it was according to my good pleasure. I wanted strength to return to the mission field, but no strength came. I wanted to be well in order to serve the Lord, but I continued to be sick, and the above verse took on great meaning.

I am not getting what I want. My prayers are not being answered. Everything is in reverse! And so it was, and so it must be until we realize that when we put our trust in the Lord and yield our lives to the blessed Holy Spirit, we can know that all things are working together for good. He is giving us the desires of our hearts by a far higher and better route than we can devise. He is making all of the mountains that seem to beset us and hamper our progress to be ways—highways. He is giving us the feet of deer, so we can walk upon the heights and tread our enemies under foot.

This is when we rejoice and sing—when we believe with thanksgiving. And you will be glad you are not getting your own way when you find out what He does. His way is far better and you'll like it.

*Even when you must wait, count it all joy.*

# 15

**Y**ears ago while I was living in the home of the McQuilkins as a student of Columbia Bible College, Dr. McQuilken returned from a trip only to find that his clothes had been ruined by an overturned ink bottle in his suitcase. His first remark was this, and I never forgot it, “Take the spoiling of your goods joyfully.”

We all have experiences of losing things, having something ruined, or of being overcharged. When traveling abroad, we often were caught in unfair transactions and reminded one another—let us take the spoiling of our money joyfully. While in New Guinea we planned on sharing our experiences through photography. But when we saw the slides, they had all been ruined in the heat. Although we knew they could never be recaptured, instead of being depressed, we rejoiced. After this, the Lord poured so much blessing on us that it would take more than this space to describe it.

Isn't it wonderful that we can transform spoiled goods into eternal blessings by just a little praise? And besides, we can by this means bring pleasure and delight to the One we love.

Learn this little chorus which Ann Sherwood wrote in the Philippines at just such a time:

There's a reason—a glorious reason  
For everything the Lord may send your way!  
When there's nothing going right,  
Walk by faith and not by sight—  
There's a reason, so rejoice the live-long day!

*Even when you lose something, count it all joy.*

# 16

**D**avid says in Psalm 69, *I am in pain and distress...* and then, I think he is wondering what kind of a sacrifice to bring to the Lord so that he can be comforted. He considers giving an ox or even a bull. Yes, those would be expensive offerings but, after all, would they help? He answers his own question with the words, *I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving. This will please the Lord more than an ox, more than a bull with its horns and hoofs.*

Some of our service and gifts to God are mixed with pride, with a desire for recognition, or done as unto men. These sacrifices have horns and hoofs. The sacrifice of praise is always a pure sacrifice, especially when it really costs. A friend recently asked one of our workers, "What does it mean to give a sacrifice of praise?" She answered, "It means to praise the Lord when you don't feel like it." I thought this was a good answer. It is rejoicing when everything in the circumstances of your day is entirely against it. But you know this will please the Lord, and so you do it and get a great blessing in your own heart as a result.

As that sacrifice of praise goes up to the Lord Jesus Christ, He is even then seeking ways to pour it back into your life in manifold measure. It will do you good, it will please Him, and it will spill over as a blessing to others, so set your will to do it now.

*...I sacrifice with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make music to the Lord. - Ps. 27:6*

*Even when it's hard, count it all joy.*

# 17

**M**y heart is bursting with many rejoicing thoughts these days. I suppose it is because they have been hard days. Trial and glory often go together. At such times we hear the admonition of the Lord Jesus, *Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?* This was spoken in the midst of pandemonium. Lazarus was dead. Jesus had not come at the call of His friends and they were disappointed, if not disillusioned. And when He did come it was too late. But Jesus knew what He would do. He wanted them to believe and see the glorious outcome. Our unbelief hinders Him in performing miracles in our behalf.

We can bring the glory experiences right into our present need. We know He is going to work it out in a wondrous way, but why not partake of the joyousness of the answer now? Distance and time will melt away as you rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Bring that future gladness right into your heart and your home this very day by rejoicing in the promise you believe. What joy you will give to your Lord when you can show Him that you do not have to see to believe.

The world says *see* and you can believe. Christ says *believe* and you shall see. He loves you, dear Christian. He is in your heart and His greatest delight is to bless you.

*Even when it looks hopeless, count it all joy.*

# 18

**E**nroute to the Philippines the devil fought us. He put many suggestions in our minds such as, “You don’t have enough money. They are having guerrilla warfare in Luzon and you won’t be able to travel; you have no car and how are you going to cart this heavy equipment from place to place? No one has written inviting you to come and record; you won’t be able to get the languages.”

As the wind lashed and the waves caused the boat to roll and toss, we were sorely tempted. As I walked the deck I lifted up my soul to God, as the storm persisted day after day against my spirit. But I repeated the promise. I praised the Lord on the basis of His Word. Tenaciously clinging to His assurances, I thanked Him for the blessings He would give and the victorious outcome of our journey. If we had not rejoiced we would have been sunk.

Then this very special verse was found in Deuteronomy 33:29, (read it all) *Blessed are you, O Israel...* and to me it said, “Blessed are you, O Joy. Who is like you, a daughter saved by the Lord?... Your enemies will cower before you...” In other words, all these whisperings of Satan are not true. Things will turn out the opposite to what he says. He is your enemy and he is a liar.

And what happened? Bob Bowman met us at the boat. We had no duty to pay and enough money for all our needs; a car was loaned to us for our travel and missionaries graciously cooperated with us... and we got the languages—our *quiver* full—92 in one year.

*Even when the enemy tempts, count it all joy.*

# 19

**D**o you ever have a situation where you are in doubt as to whether you should rejoice? If in doubt, do it. Rejoice in the Lord always!

A friend of mine had a bad fall in her home which resulted in a broken leg. She said to herself, “I wonder if Joy would say to rejoice now?” Then she laughed to herself at the thought of it. Later she wrote to me to say that the accident had caused a long-time pain in the leg to be permanently relieved.

When we rejoice, we take the situation out of Satan’s hands and we place it in the loving hands of God. Dear Christian friend, ever since you put your case entirely in His hands, God has been doing the miracle of working it all out for your good. Are you anticipating the blessing, with praise?

In this work, things have often looked very dark, but after rejoicing we have been able to lift up our eyes and see by faith some of the thrilling things God was bringing to pass, and according to our expectations, it happened. This work of Gospel Recordings stands today as a monument to God’s answer to rejoicing faith, and as an example to show what He will do for you who will trust Him with glad expectation.

In Psalm 5:11 we read: *But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you.*

*Even when in doubt, count it all joy.*

# 20

*As the Lord hath said, There is glory on ahead,  
So keep on praising Him.*

**T**he Bible tells us, “You are all children of God by faith in Jesus Christ.” As His dear children we have a desire to know His will and to do it. And He has given us this formula:

*In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

How simple. You say, “I wish to do His will.” Then thank Him for everything. *Let the melody of your heart go up to the Lord continually in thanksgiving for all that He sends you.*

Praise is the occupation of heaven, and our petition, “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven” is in a large measure fulfilled when we thank Him unceasingly.

Are you practicing praise? Do you—

Rejoice when you miss the bus.  
Rejoice and don't make a fuss.  
Remember His grace is sufficient for us.  
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice.

*Even when you don't like it, count it all joy.*

# 21

**A** dear one has written asking: “Can a person rejoice in his own blunders? I would say, *Yes*. Being notoriously absent minded, I make some bad ones. But I do not mean to, and each time I hope to do better. However, I immediately begin to rejoice in it. Furthermore, I thank God for permitting me to make the mistake. Of course, if others have been hurt or inconvenienced because of it, I am sorry and ask their forgiveness. But I trust the Lord to work it out for greater blessing, and because I believe He will, I thank Him.

Once I forgot a speaking engagement. I was shocked when I realized it, and sorry, but it was too late to correct it so I rejoiced and was comforted in the realization that God would cause it to work out for good. The result was this (and let me say we do not always see the result here and now): a new full-time worker came.

Some people say the only good they get out of such mistakes is to learn not to do it again. Very well, but most of us find that we still are apt to forget things and make mistakes, even though we have tried hard to improve. No rejoicing Christian is purposely careless. So why not turn it to something that will delight God’s heart? Rejoice. Rejoice in the hope and glory of God. It is when we realize we are nothing that God can work best.

When we, by rejoicing, place the case in His hands, Jesus takes the “tangled strands that we have spun in vain,” and by the skill of His dear hands, only beauty shall remain.

*Even when you feel stupid, count it all joy.*

## 22

I am sometimes asked if rejoicing always means that you do not have periods of depression. No, I have had many such periods which have been a source of great trial as I did not know their cause. Satan attacks us at such times and brings condemnation to our hearts. I deal with it very simply. I come to the Lord anew, reminding Him I am His child and that my life is His. *If this depression is from you, Lord, show me what it is; put Your finger on it.* But if it is just a general bad feeling and nothing I can remedy, I just thank Him for it, as He tells us to do.

Temptations can be very real, but they are not in themselves sin, unless yielded to. Your dedication to the Lord is what you are in your heart; it is what you have sincerely said to God. These bad feelings do not affect your dedication—it is just the enemy's way of getting you to be discouraged. Take the shield of faith. Rejoice—thank God that His Word is true. Find a promise and grasp it to your heart. Eat it. Appropriately it. It is yours. He says He has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in Christ. He says He has loved us with an everlasting love. He promises to guard us from all evil—to provide our needs and to satisfy our spiritual hunger. He says He will never leave us and that at His right hand we have pleasures forevermore.

Take these promises. Rejoice in their truth. Those bad feelings within you are not true—they are not from God. Fill your mind and heart with His Word. Praise Him for the fact He is using these very temptations for a great spiritual victory in your life, which you will experience in reality.

*Even in temptations, count it all joy.*

# 23

*...No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived  
what God has prepared for those who love him.*

- 1 Corinthians 2:9

**Y**es, even in this present world He has *squillions* more of blessings for us than we can dream about. When trials vex us and temptations would overwhelm us, express that vote of confidence to Him which is—rejoice.

What can we expect from God? We can ask every good of which we have heard; every good which God has promised in His Word, or that we can think of or imagine. We can go beyond limits of all human description, and after all, God is able to do more for us than we can ask or think—and He will.

Do you believe it, dear one? With such a rich, loving, faithful Father and Friend, who did not keep back His only Son, but gave Him up for us all, do you think He would deprive us of any good?

Pray,

*None of self, Lord. All of Thee.  
And watch Him work, rejoicingly.*

Praise God. Give thanks. Keep practicing praise.

*Even if you don't like it, count it all joy.*

# 24

Remember when this verse from Psalm 65 came alive: “Praise waiteth for Thee, O God, in Zion.”

We faced an impasse in the work. Part of our house had been condemned and must be torn down. But we had neither permits nor builders nor money to rebuild. Humanly we were stuck.

Time passed and no change. “I know! We must praise God more heartily. We must prepare the way for the answer with much thanksgiving. The cup of praise must be filled to the full!”

“Praise waiteth for Thee, O God.” Like those who raise banners and have the musicians in trim for the reception of a king we must anticipate, with joy, His blessing.

The only hindrance to God’s working, if our hearts are right, is lack of faith. We express our faith by praise. We were kept rejoicing by faith alone for months, and when the answer came, it was so miraculous and so wonderful we could only bow and worship Him.

Are you raising the banners of praise in preparation for the answer? Cast not away therefore your confidence which hath great recompense of reward. Your cup will be running over with joy. Gladden the heart of your Savior with praise.

Remember...

*Even when you have to wait..... Count it all joy!*

# 25

**T**he prophet Jeremiah says,  
“O Lord...know that for Thy sake I have suffered rebuke. Thy words were found and I did eat them, and Thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart; for I am called by Thy name, O Lord of Hosts.” - Jeremiah 15:15,16

As Christians we may have troubles, difficulties, hardships, persecutions and misunderstandings, but at such times of adversity we can open the Word, which is a love letter from our Lord, and rejoice in all His comforts, and promises, and assurances. They are true and shall be fulfilled.

When we read these promises, and count them as already done, God’s Word becomes the joy and rejoicing of our hearts.  
“...Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.” - Luke 11:4

Ask, seek, and knock and what will you receive? You may receive the Holy Spirit if that’s what you are asking for. And when He comes, He will clothe you with the garment of praise; He will produce the fruit of joy in you; He will give you the power as well as the will to rejoice unceasingly.

Knowing God has promised to give grace and glory, and that His Holy Spirit is at work in our hearts to will and to do of His good pleasure, let us laugh and sing! Believe that He is bringing to fruition that blessing within you that will make you a tapestry of His grace.

*Rejoice in his promises. Rejoice in adversity, rejoice evermore!*

# 26

**T**here was a time when I was overwhelmed with a burden or depression which pressed on me like a crushing weight. It continued for days with little relief. It seemed unbearable and I could not understand it. But from the start I set my soul to praise the Lord more than usual. I sang and rejoiced and the worse it became, the more I expressed praise to Christ. I still didn't know the why of it, yet I knew that nothing would please Satan as much as if he could stifle the song of praise, or get me to turn my eyes within instead of up to my living Lord.

I also knew that God, through rejoicing, would be released to do mighty things in my life and in the work of reaching out to the lost with the gospel message. Before long I began to realize that the whole thing was mainly Satan's attempt to intercept the progress of the work by stifling faith and rejoicing.

In less than twenty months we had recorded nearly 200 of the New Guinea languages and dialects, and plans were made to enter some of the most neglected areas of the world. The enemy knew that if the song of praise could be hushed the battle would be his. And it was these words sent to me by a friend that helped make of that experience one of the greatest victories of faith of my whole life:

*Keep up the song of faith, the foe will hear and flee,  
Oh, let not Satan hush your song, for praise is victory!*

As unannounced as it came, this battle ended and with it such an open door for faith that it seemed as though I could reach out and take kingdoms for our Lord and Christ.

*When burdened, make it your choice to rejoice.*

# 27

**M**elbourne, Australia. January 21, 1953. Tonight (the night the burden lifted) is a peak experience of my life. I have never sensed the presence of the Holy Spirit more fully than now, nor has my mind ever leapt ahead so greatly to the things that are before. I'm writing down the many things I believe He would have me take by faith for this year, as well as on and on until He comes.

January 27...Now it isn't only dreaming, hoping, expecting, but much seeing as abundant token for the fulfillment of His promises. I feel so weak but received great blessing from Hebrews 11:

*...and gained what was promised...whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle...*

Our weakness is evidently the ingredient God uses for doing wonders.

February 10...We are in Lake Kutubu, Papua, and God has done for us glorious things. Wonderful is His name. Oh, His promises—His answers! His words—His fulfillments! It is all so beyond human power to express...it is joy unspeakable and full of glory.

Day by day He has unfolded His plan and worked His many blessings. Over and over again by faith we have said, "We know God will not fail us. He will do something wonderful."

He has, and He will complete what He has begun.

*When weak, make it your choice to rejoice.*

# 28

**S**uki... February 26... God has encouraged me to step out into the deeps of His promises. These terrific declarations of expectation for this year that I have made seem to be continually corroborated by His Word, and I am constantly receiving new assurances within my soul. His Word keeps pouring in the cement under my feet... Those who may stand by and wonder at my fantastically extravagant goals for this year should behold with me the Words of God cheering me on.

When we see through what He means and the extent of His promises, the vastness of the resources to which we have access by faith, and which we may reach out and take and possess, it is a staggering revelation.

There is faith, and there is credulity, but real faith is the confidence of things hoped for, the settled knowing in the depths of our hearts, being sure—secure in our hope. It is solid ground, firm substance.

If we can see, then we don't need faith.

I have stuck my neck out so far this year, have opened my mouth so wide, but believe it shall be even as He has promised. Day by day without lapse or change He has steadily strengthened the hope in my heart and given *Amen* to it.

*When staggered, make it your choice to rejoice.*

# 29

**M**y own experience in the past weeks has been thrilling, after those weeks of battle in January in which I seemed to be sifted as wheat and dragged through a knothole. But it was a wonderful experience because He gave songs in my dungeon and permitted me to praise Him with a hearty spirit even in the worst darkness and pressure.

Yes, it was glorious in itself because with all else squeezed out God remained. It was the joy of believing without any feeling or inspiration to help. It was taking His Word alone, just as it stands, yet knowing beyond feeling or seeing—this Word alone would stand and the outcome was sure.

Faith, assurance, reaching out and taking of His treasures, setting foot upon the possessions He offered—taking over the government of new spheres, entering into the possibilities of new worlds. Mine! Mine! Ours for the taking. In this, asking is receiving.

*Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance.*

Oh, that the eyes of all may be opened so that they may see the legions awaiting the call and command of faith.

We are expecting way beyond our powers of accomplishment. But as we look back over the last months and tabulate the great miraculous things He has already done we cannot doubt that He can also do all the rest.

*When sifted as wheat, make it your choice to rejoice.*

# 30

**J**anuary 31, 1953...Dear Board and Staff, Let's move ahead with God this year. If some of our goals were not reached last year let's stretch ahead for far greater ones...God has led me to place tremendous goals for this year, and I believe He can easily fulfill every one but we can hinder Him and keep millions from getting the Gospel.

I believe He wants us to take and claim far, far more than we have ever done before. I'm asking for 25,000 phonographs, 1,000 new languages, 500,000 records and one million souls. And I'm ashamed to be asking so little from such a God.

If I said 200,000 records you'd say we'll roll up our sleeves and do it, but in the face of 500,000 you'll say, "God must do it." Expect Him to and move forth as though He actually were going to do it! Dig the ditches and He will take care of the rest...

...Let us fearlessly step out on His promises—the bare Word of God—and make a great victory which will completely swallow up the failures of the past. Let us examine ourselves brethren. Is there in us an evil heart of unbelief, a bit of pride or self-seeking or desire to gratify the flesh? Let's be cleansed of every stain, and no more hinder the outflow of God's power and grace...

*When digging ditches, make it your choice to rejoice.*

# 31

**S**atan would be so glad if we would decide to walk by sight, for he knows our sight is so poor we would be sure to stumble. But when we walk by faith, we are walking by God's sight which is sure.

Let us rise up and go forward in the name of the Lord of Hosts. We are but a little handful in comparison to the great company we are going against, but well able to overcome them by the power of God...

How marvelously God has worked in the past...again I know I do not have strength for the least of what is ahead—But my God is able.

Is your God able?

Let us get before the Lord and gaze up into His face until our soul is fused with His grace and glory and power. Until that One fills us who measured out heaven with a span and gathered up the dust in a measure, and takes up the isles as a very little thing, and to whom the nations are as a drop in the bucket!

Know Him and *nothing* will seem impossible.

*When facing impossibilities, make it your choice to rejoice.*

**Y**ears ago I made the impossible goal of recording 100 new language groups a year. We didn't quite reach it for a couple of years, but after making the goal we accomplished three times more than before, and soon we were reaching that number and more to make up for the lack in other years.

The Holy Spirit has been revealing great and mighty things to me. It's hard for me to pass them on although they possess my very being. I'm asking God the Holy Spirit to do the same for you and enable you to go at His command according to the vision He gives.

The need of these lost millions breaks my heart, but we don't have to stand and weep. Believe that God has put within our hands that which, when blessed and used by Him, can "...thresh the mountains and crush them, and reduce the hills to chaff. You will winnow them, the wind will pick them up, and a gale will blow them away. But you will rejoice in the Lord and glory in the Holy One of Israel."

For what period of history is God referring to when He speaks of the great things He will accomplish in the earth? If it is not for now, for when is it?

May He make straight paths for our feet and confirm the feeble knees. Let us say to those of fearful heart—fear not! Read Hebrews 11.

*When fearful, make it your choice to rejoice.*

**A**fter God had urged me to take and take for this year, I thought perhaps this is too much. Perhaps this is a figment of my imagination—but since then have come quiet words of assurance.

According to your faith will it be done to you.

Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!

Yet [Abraham] did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

...he considered him faithful who had made the promise.

...who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised...whose weakness was turned to strength (I love that); and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies.

I've asked God to increase the work by multiplication this year and not addition, and this is the challenge and promise:

*...Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously...he who supplies...will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.*

*When claiming promises, make it your choice to rejoice.*

# 34

**M**y heart is filled with joy in the expectation of the great things God will do in the earth. Let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. The assurance and confidence in what He is going to do is so great that there is the consciousness that it is as good as granted.

*My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name...He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thought. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things...*

Hers was a song of faith.

Forget the things which are behind and press forward to the prize...

May God enable us all to *leap* to the opportunity and believe that He will do the mighty things He has promised.

Let's begin now to praise Him for the fulfillment.

*When confident, make it your choice to rejoice.*

# 35

**W**hen we first arrived in Australia, we told of this God of ours who had done, and would do, wonders through faith and rejoicing. We have seen the manifestation of it before our eyes in Australia.

When I spoke to the Wycliffe Bible Translators in Melbourne the theme was often about rejoicing—that we should always look forward with the certain joyous expectation of seeing Him do marvels.

Although that was the very time that all seemed so dark, I declared that I believed that the months ahead would be the most glorious of our whole life in Gospel Recordings.

Now, as I look at my diary having to do with this, I find these words:

*And so it is.*

Through rejoicing, the very weapon in the hands of the enemy is turned to his own destruction. Obstacles are turned into vehicles. By rejoicing you ride the enemy instead of being mastered by him.

*Blessed are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the Lord? ...Your enemies will cower before you, and you will trample down their high places.*

- Deuteronomy 33:29

*When all seems dark, make it your choice to rejoice.*

**R**ecently Satan rose up with terrible threats. We recognized that it was a thrust against our great advance into specific countries, and we took our stand in the name of our Conqueror, the Lord Jesus Christ. We wielded the two-edged sword of faith and praise and the enemy beat a retreat. ...*This is the glory of all his saints...*, says the Psalmist.

In Psalm 146 we see that the high praises of God in the mouth, puts into our hand the two-edged sword against the enemy.

It is fascinating to be in this Christian warfare. These battles that come to us give us experience. We learn by experience to recognize the strategy of our enemy, Satan. We must not be ignorant of his devices. With much experience we can more effectively triumph over our enemies. What man can be an honored soldier unless he has known combat?

Let us not run from the enemy attack, but stand in the almighty name of Christ. Let us recognize that it is our enemy who is bringing that terrible depression or that awful sense of fear. Let us make full use of our rights as His child.

Let us take our two-edged sword of faith and praise and not let go until the enemy has turned and run.

*When under attack, make it your choice to rejoice.*

# 37

It is hot out here, unusually so, even for New Guinea, but He gives strength and cheerful endurance. Now my hostess has put a fan in my room which helps so much.

*Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,  
whenever you face trials of many kinds.*

- James 1:2

Yes, even when it is so hot that you feel you are continually in a steam oven, and your clothes stick like glue, and mosquitoes devour you unmercifully, and the noises about you continually hammer in your ear, and you can't sleep—realize that these are friends and not enemies. So you welcome them, for they serve to deepen, sweeten and strengthen your spiritual life and make you a blessing to others.

- *Humble yourselves...that he may lift you up in due time.*
  - *Consider it pure joy, my brothers,  
whenever you face trials of many kinds...*
  - *Perseverance must finish its work so that you  
may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*
  - *...because you know that the testing  
of your faith develops perseverance.*

When our Lord sees that we are willing to accept inconveniences, disturbances, and discomforts from His hand gladly, He steps in with a cooling fan and never lets us be tempted above what we are able to bear. He has a blessed purpose to perform through these things.

*When in discomfort, make it your choice to rejoice.*

I have been listing a few of the benefits that trials bring: patience, understanding, sympathy, tenderness, knowledge of God, appreciation of Calvary, greater desire for the consummation of the age, heaven, the glorious return of Christ, retirement from the superficial things of the world that separate us from our devotions and communion with the Lord.

Trials crowd us to Christ. They cause us to take our eyes off people and to put them on the Lord. Material things begin to receive their proper evaluation.

Through trials we learn to see that God's way is best. We come to realize our helplessness and are cast completely upon Him. We become humble, and in that place He can and does exalt us.

Even if there were no reasons for us to *glory in tribulation*, it is given to us as a privilege not only to believe on Christ, but to *suffer for His sake*. Jesus learned obedience by the things He suffered.

When we rejoice in tribulation we receive far greater benefits than otherwise could be possible. Our Lord is made glad as well, and others seeing us are also encouraged to rejoice.

Therefore, let us not fail to rejoice and give thanks continually.

*When in trials, make it your choice to rejoice.*

# 39

**W**e have the record of history and the testimony of experience to attest to the value that comes through difficulties. The Word of God, both by example and declaration, tells us many reasons why troubles, trials, adversities, hard times, afflictions, illnesses, losses, limitations, persecutions and unjust treatment are permitted and even sent to us from the Lord.

*...we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know...*

What are some truths we know? If we dwell on these, the part that we do not know can well be trusted into His hands.

We know that "... in all things God works for the good of those who love him..."

We know that nothing that hits us should be considered *strange*: "Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering...But rejoice..."

He promises that the trial of our faith is more precious than gold - purifying and increasing our faith.

Paul said that the trials that came to him had resulted in the advance of the gospel. Looking back into his experience and the experience of others that suffered intensely, we know that to be true.

Instead of asking, *Why?* when trouble comes, let us remind each other of the truths we know and in dwelling on these truths make it our choice to rejoice and glory in tribulation.

Are you rejoicing?

*When in difficulty, make it your choice to rejoice.*

# 40

**P**atience must be a virtue of great importance to God. It must be worth any price to obtain. In Romans it says: "...but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance..." In James 1 we find: "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance."

And in the fifth chapter we have the same thought:

*...as an example of patience in the face of suffering,  
take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.  
As you know, we consider blessed  
those who have persevered...*

James goes on to explain why we count as happy those who have suffered great afflictions such as Job. Because we have seen how the Lord dealt with them in the end.

*The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.*

Who is counted happy in this world? Not those who have afflictions and sufferings but those who endured through patience. These prophets who had suffered demonstrated such great patience as to be an example to us all of those who are counted truly happy.

I must admit that I have passed over it often because patience did not seem something wonderful to obtain. It certainly is not glamorous. I like the promises about glory, fruitfulness, success, triumph, possession of nations for Him, honor from Him, but this? Who wants it?

*When tested, make it your choice to rejoice.*

**S**o we must change our viewpoint. Instead of exulting in getting this, obtaining that, feeling something else, we must glory and rejoice in that we can suffer—even in little ways from day to day, thereby having patience worked into our lives.

Yes, patience brings its own reward. Patience brings us to the realization and the actual endowment of those *things which eye hath not seen, nor ear heard*, which are promised to rejoicers.

We have not only heard of the patience of Job, but have seen the great satisfaction that he received, the abundant reward.

We are in line for a great prize, but it is not cheaply given. It is not found at the fifth inning. There are battles that endure just for a night, and some that continue through scores of years. Every battle won adds up scores for the final touchdown. We have races which last an hour, and there is a race that takes our whole life. The great prize is not granted until the race is won.

Rejoicing will lighten the way, speed us onward in the race and make *enduring* joyful to the end.

Are you rejoicing?

*When in battle, make it your choice to rejoice.*

# 42

**T**o walk in a way that is slippery and dark is not cause for joy or gladness. To be faced with dangers, pelted by rains, chilled by cold, is not in itself a matter for praise. (In this work of recording the gospel for every language group we have had many such occasions.)

But when the way is hidden, and we cannot see, and we are weary, worn, hungry, lost, it is blessed to hear:

*This is the way. · Here I am. · I will direct you.*

*No harm shall befall you. · Happy are they that  
keep my ways.*

*All these things are working together for good.*

*Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all  
her paths are peace.*

Then, because I hear His words, have His promises, and believe, I can sing in the ways of the Lord.

Storms may come. Lightning may flash. Dangers may lurk on every side. No matter how tangled, how misty, how difficult may be the way before us, when I hear His words I am comforted. I am enlarged. I am given hope, assurance and light. I will continue singing in His ways and claiming promises. I will be filled with glory, for great is the glory of the Lord.

*May all the kings of the earth praise you, O Lord, when they  
hear the words of your mouth. May they sing of the ways of  
the Lord, for the glory of the Lord is great.*

*When in danger, make it your choice to rejoice.*

# 43

**Y**ou will be thrilled to hear this story of God's provision for me. When I arrived in New Zealand I found that my one suitcase had been lost in transit. I remembered to *count it all joy* and what do you think happened? My host and hostess who owned a department store completely outfitted me for my travel in cold New Zealand.

Besides this my host asked for my ticket which just took me as far as Australia, and exchanged it for a round-the-world ticket — a gift. When I arrived in Australia and needed to attend to the securing of visas for my stops in various countries, I found that to apply for entrance required exactly the sort of ticket I'd been given.

Now, what would I have done if God had not caused this new friend to do such a magnanimous thing? I did not have the money.

We do not need to think of this. When I stepped out by faith, the Lord already had this planned. Let us exalt His name together.

When I arrived in Sydney airport, there waiting for me right before my eyes was my lost bag. God is faithful.

*How can I repay the Lord for all his goodness to me?*

While we wait for His answers, let us count it all joy!

*When loss comes, make it your choice to rejoice.*

# 44

*Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel.*

- Philippians 1:12

**W**hat things? Chains, imprisonments, envy and strife by so-called Christians, reproach, unfair criticisms. Everything was heaped on Paul all at once.

It would have been enough for him to be in that dank, awful prison facing imminent execution, discomforts of body, threats and blasphemy of the unconverted, but to have on top of that all the strife and wicked opposition of his *brethren*. It seemed too much.

And yet, it was under this very condition that he said, *What happened to me has really served to advance the gospel*. They aimed to stop the progress of the Word of God, but they worked the opposite. Oh, how wonderful.

At Gospel Recordings we could tell story after story to add to this. The persecution in Honduras, my illness, the war, trials in early stages of the work, casualties in the loss of needed workers, not getting buildings we thought we needed, illnesses, seeming frustration, trial and testing from within the ranks as well as without, criticisms, oppositions, lack of supplies, in journeys and dangers and isolation—but *all* of these things have served to advance the gospel. Let us not forget it.

*When distressed, make it your choice to rejoice.*

# 45

**D**id you receive bad news today? Turn it quickly into a matter of praise, a challenge to faith, a stepping stone to expectation. When Paul and Barnabas were in prison they sang songs at midnight. Paul reached a height of rejoicing then and on many other occasions. His song has several verses.

Philippians 1:12:

Vs 1—I'm thankful for these trials and afflictions and stripes because they are working to the end that more people may be saved;

Vs 2—No matter about this pretence in the proclamation of Christ and this insidious purpose to add to my misery and suffering; I do rejoice in it and know it shall be for my salvation;

Vs 3—My desire is that Christ may be magnified through my body whether it be by life or death. My only ambition is that His name be glorified. If my life is to be taken, then I will be with Him and that will be wonderful. Nothing could be better than that. If I am to be spared (and I believe I shall be), then it is for blessing, for your progress and joy in the faith, and we will have a happy time when we get together and review it all.

Vs 4—Don't be afraid of persecution and hardships or whatever thing Satan or any other adversaries may bring. Remember, it will turn against them and you will get all the benefit. You see how much good has already come from my imprisonment. The brethren are more bold to proclaim the gospel and that is worth it all.

*When imprisoned, make it your choice to rejoice.*

# 46

If I ever wrote a devotional book (which I am not contemplating) I'm afraid it would not be very popular. In devotions you want something that will sooth and calm and comfort you. Something to make you feel good.

But I am glad that years ago when I was still in my teens, Dr. McQuilken, in dealing with my propensity to worry, said, "That is sin." If he hadn't, I might have dragged that load with me through life. There would have been no great victories on the mission field, and no Gospel Recordings reaching its arms around the world.

Therefore, I wish to be faithful to you. You have perhaps lost your money. I say, "Rejoice in the Lord because of it." You may say, "I have been cheated. I have lost my job. My friends have dropped me. My plans have fallen through. I didn't get my share of the inheritance. I'm ill. What do you say about it, Joy?"

You already know my answer. "Rejoice and thereby make every one of these trials a springboard for blessing and fruitfulness." But you may say, "It's killing me."

Now I am not heartless. I've suffered too much for that, but I know Jesus said: "Unless a kernal of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life."(John 12:24,25)

Even when it's not in you to do it, by His Spirit count it all joy.

*When losing all, make it your choice to rejoice.*

**G**od says, *Rejoice evermore. In everything give thanks.* Why should we do this? He tells us in the same verse. *For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

Why does God will this for us? Why won't He let us *not* rejoice about a few things? Why is it important to give thanks for everything?

First, as God's children we believe that all things come to us from Him. He allows all that touches our lives. If He sends trouble it is for a purpose and so we can thank Him for it.

Second, if we are not thankful, we are unthankful to say the least, and it may be there will even be a root of bitterness that will spring up. God says that by this many may be defiled.

Rejoicing is the plant which takes over, keeping down the roots of bitterness which would hinder the fulness of the blessing of God in our lives and the lives of others.

Bitterness cannot take root where joy and a spirit of thankfulness are rampant.

*Rejoice evermore. In everything give thanks,* and provide no ground for a root of bitterness to grow.

Are you rejoicing?

*When questioning, make it your choice to rejoice.*

# 48

*Rejoice, and again I say, Rejoice.*  
- Philippians 4:4

**T**his work of sending the gospel to everyone in his own tongue is God's answer to rejoicing faith. It is a principle which means, "Rejoice when everything is against you. Rejoice when you are ill or lose your money or your friends. Rejoice in the Lord always."

In 1936 I returned home from Honduras, ill in body, disqualified for future missionary service and without financial support. It was a dark picture indeed.

Then God's Word spoke to my heart, *Rejoice, Joy, Rejoice.*

Rejoice? Why?

God is working all of these things together for your good. He has a wonderful purpose for your life. *My ways are higher than your ways.*

And I answered, "Lord, I will believe. I do trust You and thank You for what you are doing. I rejoice by faith in these circumstances because I believe You are using them for great blessing. I believe these very difficulties will accomplish the fulfillment of my heart's desire to reach the lost."

And you already know the sequel. How wonderful indeed. Rejoicing for what you cannot see is your investment for future dividends. Are you rejoicing?

*When disqualified, make it your choice to rejoice.*

# 49

**W**hen praying about a certain matter I came to a conclusion which really meant doing nothing. Just waiting. Then it was called into question and I asked the Father if He still had a further word to me about it that was different. Just then I glanced at where I was reading. I can't quote what I saw, but it was this thought, and the very answer.

*“When you are asking for a victory which only God can bring, then rest – and let faith sing.”*

What a truth is embodied here! Many times we believe that we are exercising faith, and of a truth we are, but we are exercising with self-effort instead of just letting it sing. If God is going to do it anyway, why not enjoy letting take it over completely? (And incidentally, He will enjoy it a good deal more as well!)

Much of our faith has a mixture of works. “Our God has spoken,” says our chorus, “so laugh and sing.” Yes, we can relax and sing. It is something He has to do anyway – that change in another's heart, that removal of hindrances, that opening of a closed door, that victory. So let faith sing!

Even if there are bumps and the storms whisk us about to some extent, never fear. We are safe for we are in His care.

“When you are asking for a victory which only God can bring, then rest – and let faith sing!”

Are you resting? Are you singing? Are you rejoicing?

*When waiting ...make it your choice to rejoice*

# 50

**A**re you facing a battle? Rejoice! The Lord shall fight for you. You don't need to get in and convince someone you are right and he is wrong. Just tell your heavenly Father about the difference. He will take care of the battle. He will make it right in a loving way. He will fight, and your part is to sit on the side lines and hold your peace.

If you jump into the fray, your peace is sure to go rolling away. If you, in calmness sit and watch the Lord do the fighting, your peace will stay.

When you see His masterful tactics, you know that victory is certain, and what victor would not rejoice? Indeed, it may not even look like a battle when He is doing the fighting, for He is able to soften any heart. "Even the wrath of man shall praise Him and the remainder of wrath shall He restrain."

A trusting heart sits still and holds its peace and sees the victory first by faith, and then by sight.

Are you rejoicing?

*When in battle ... Make it your choice to rejoice!*

# 51

**H**ave you reason to groan? Then rejoice, for your cry unto God will be heard. In Exodus 2 the king of Egypt died. The children of Israel were in bondage. They cried. Their cry came up unto God. “God heard their groaning.” He remembered His covenant. He will remember His covenant with you. He will break the power of your oppressor. He will bring release and comfort. Should we not be encouraged to know that God hears and answers our cries? That He can and will come to our aid? That victory is in His hand to give? That our enemies shall not continue to triumph over us?

*Yes!* This verse should also be a solemn warning to us. There is a vast difference between crying out to God in faith that He will take hold of our situation and work by His might power, and crying out in complaint against our circumstances.

God permits the circumstances, and to complain against them is to resist God’s plan for us. Woe unto us if God hears our groaning in self-pity and the desire for an easy life! Our groans will condemn us.

Rather, let the song of praise arise from hearts that trust when all outward circumstances make us want to groan.

God is listening for our cry. Will it be one of murmuring and doubt or one of faith and praise?

*When groaning ... make it your choice to rejoice!*

**H**ow lovingly God deals with us! How thankless and joyless we often are, and His goodness continues.

Don't think that He owes us something because we serve Him. We are His servants, His slaves, and joyfulness is to be a part of our serving. Deuteronomy 28 states: *“Because you did not serve the Lord your God joyfully and gladly in the time of prosperity, therefore in hunger and thirst, in nakedness and dire poverty, you will serve the enemies the Lord sends against you.”*

God wanted Israel to serve Him, but He wanted more than service. He wanted joy and thanksgiving in it. He does not rebuke them for not serving. He rebukes them for serving and not rejoicing in it, for not being thankful. Because they did not rejoice, He made them serve their enemies!

If we don't choose to rejoice in the abundance of all things while serving God, we may find worry a very real enemy to our health, our happiness, and our service.

If we allow worry to take over, are we not serving an enemy? Rejoicing is a weapon to fight our enemy. Worrying is the enemy's weapon to defeat us, but worry cannot hold out against joy!

Are you rejoicing?

*When serving... Make it your choice to rejoice*

# 53

**T**oday, so many do not see Jesus. He is with them truly, but they don't recognize Him. I am sure that if they would rejoice that He was with them, they would realize His presence. They would see Him.

As Mary grieved over the death of her Lord, her eyes were blinded by her tears. She could not see Jesus. Jesus' salutation to Mary was "Rejoice."

Jesus had deep meaning to this greeting. Before He went away He told the disciples that if they really loved Him they would rejoice in the fact that He was going away.

Rejoice because He was going away? Why? Because He would be set free from the body of His humiliation; redemption would be accomplished; Satan would be defeated; Jesus would be in the exalted position with the Father where He could bestow the Spirit without measure and be with them always.

So to Mary He gives a word which can be recalled in every dark hour — "REJOICE." A word that reminds her that Jesus is all He says He is and more.

What a word this is! REJOICE!

If you are discouraged, disillusioned, disappointed — LOOK UP! Jesus is ALIVE! JESUS IS WITH US! REJOICE!

*When grieving... Make it you choice to rejoice!*

# 54

*Does the Bible actually mean to rejoice in adverse circumstances, or does it mean to rejoice in the Lord in spite of what comes?*

*Should we really thank God for a terrible trial?*

*I can see the import of thanking God in a trial and through it, but to thank Him for it? It doesn't seem right, nor does it make sense!*

*How can you thank God for suffering and thereby attribute it to Him?*

**E**verywhere I go these questions and comments are commonly shared by earnest Christians as they seek to understand the life of rejoicing faith. Perhaps it would help to rephrase their question:

*Shall we rejoice in the Lord and thank Him for what He allows and does, as well as for who He is?*

I have to say, Yes.

Actually, I have no questions, no doubts about it in my mind. You see, when we believe He does all things well and that His way is perfect—and when we believe that He controls everything that comes to us as from the hands of a loving Father—then we will rejoice in all, for all, and because of all He does, all He allows, intends, plans and brings to our lives through adverse circumstances. Thank Him now for the blessing you cannot yet see.

*Rejoice in adversity; rejoice always.*

**P**aul testified this way and my voice joins with him:

I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation... What has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel... Now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death... When we are cursed, we bless... we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance... we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors...

No wonder Paul could turn about and exhort us:

give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus... always giving thanks to God the Father for everything... Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

Then James chimes in: *Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds... Phillips translates it, When troubles and trials crowd upon you, brothers, don't resent them as intruders, but welcome them as friends.*

Consider yourselves fortunate when all kinds of trials come your way... consider it pure joy... treat them as a happy privilege... count yourselves supremely happy... count it all joy.

And there it is. Their words may be different, but the message is clear to me—rejoice in trials, all trials. Not some—not sometimes—but all and every! Rejoice in, through, for, now, then, and evermore.

*Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice. Rejoice always.*

# 56

**W**hen you have rejoiced and believed and things begin to look darker and darker, be very glad because the harder the situation becomes, the greater delight God takes in bringing deliverances.

You will find that often God purposely waits until everything seems utterly beyond hope in order that He may perform a truly great miracle.

Recall how the Lord purposely waited until Lazarus had been in the grave four days, before He answered Mary's summons for Him. His words were,

*Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?*

- John 11:40

And look what happened. Mary saw her brother raised from the dead.

Let those words engrave themselves on your heart,

*...if you believed, you would see...*

Believe, give praise, rejoice, though He keeps you waiting four days...four months...four years...forty years...and you shall see the glory of God.

Oh, don't waste another minute following any lesser plan. Don't let another day go by without taking this step of faith. Believe and rejoice in and for your adversity—God will bless you for it.

*Rejoice in adversity; rejoice always.*

**M**any times rejoicing is more difficult in the multitude of everyday annoyances, aggravations, irritations, delays and unpunctualities than in the greater sorrows and testings.

It is here that we begin to wake up to the fact of how utterly futile it is for us to *try* to rejoice. We get to the place where we say, *I can't. I try and try and try, but instead of helping me these attempts just add more defeats to those I already have.*

It's true, you can't. But then no man can—but by the Holy Spirit. In this matter of rejoicing, the Holy Spirit must take over and do it within us, and for us.

Let's cease from our own works today and trust Him to do it for us.

Are you rejoicing yet? It's never too soon to begin. Have you been rejoicing? Keep on. Keep on. Double your praise—step up your rejoicing. You can't overdo.

*Rejoice evermore; rejoice always.*

**I**n the progress of the work of Gospel Recordings, we have faced many obstacles and trials that seemed to threaten our existence. We tackled these trials with the weapons of praise and rejoicing, believing God would take these hindrances and bring great good to us through them. And we experienced some of our greatest strides forward and most outstanding miracles through great adversity and disappointment.

Years ago, when the work was small, we were using an old garage at the rear of the adjoining property to store our materials. One day we were told by the owners that the tenants on the property wanted use of the garage. What shall we do? We had no other place to put our supplies. What could we do? What else, but rejoice? Rejoice knowing that God must want to do something better for us.

Immediately the thought came, “We must buy the property and own the house on it as well as the garage.” And as a step of faith the purchase was made. The down-payment was miraculously supplied and the remainder of the payments came in marvelous ways without ever making known the need, and in less than a year we were able to burn the mortgage.

The purchase was ideal for our needs. For many years our residence and studio operated from this miracle property (as well as some other nearby land which was added). Praise God!

Thank You, Father, for taking away the use of our storage garage.

*Rejoice and expect a blessing; rejoice always.*

**I**n 1944 when Ann Sherwood and I planned our trip to Mexico to record tribal languages, we faced one of the biggest steps of faith in the history of the work up to that time. What we needed and what we had were separated by a great gulf between. Rejoice!

We had no car. Rejoice! We had no money for a car. Rejoice! We had no coupons for gas—even if we did have a car. Rejoice! And there were no cars for sale—even if we had the money. Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice! Even in the reality of so great a need we could rejoice with a heart full of confidence. But, I am ashamed to say that I did not. I was very much discouraged and hope almost failed.

Then came the unbelievably good news that we had been provided with a car and an abundant supply of gas coupons. Oh what joy. And with it came a new understanding of God's love and care. How sorry I was that I had not rejoiced in the beginning. But this was a lesson I would never forget. I asked Ann, "If I ever—for one moment—forget to rejoice, will you remind me?"

And so it was, we purposed in the future always to manifest our trust in God by praising Him in the darkest hour...and it wasn't long before we had the opportunity to put this new purpose into practice. We had eight or nine flat tires on our way to Mexico City. Rejoice evermore.

Oh, Lord, thank You for creating such a great gulf between what we had and what we needed.

*Rejoice in the darkest hour; rejoice always.*

**S**ometimes the goodness of God is taken to mean the approval of God. When we have failed to believe and rejoice (as I failed), God in His mercy and love often returns abundant blessings to us in spite of our lack of belief and faith. At such times we may be tempted to think, “I didn’t rejoice and yet God worked it out wonderfully for my good...so maybe it isn’t necessary after all to rejoice at all times.”

Shame on us if this is true. Because we have forced Him to go the first mile, are we now going to make it necessary for Him to go the second mile?

The goodness of the Lord should drive home to us the enormity of wrong in not ascribing to Him the glory due Him at all times. Oh, let us pray for hearts that desire His glory to be recognized and acknowledged daily, openly, unreservedly through our faithful rejoicing, and thankfulness to Him in and for everything that comes our way.

Oh, God, let our hearts desire that You shall receive the glory and honor due Your name... no matter how difficult our situation may seem.

Teach us to give thanks and rejoice daily in and for everything that comes our way.

O, help us rejoice evermore.

*Rejoice in failure; rejoice always.*

It is only necessary to give a little attention to *rejoicing* in the Bible to realize we have abundant commandments, exhortations and examples. Yet I am continually amazed as I talk with Christians to learn how little this has been taken seriously. The subject is touched on from time to time, but not enough to press home the truth that this is the way we must live from hour to hour.

One time, after I had been talking with a minister about the blessings of rejoicing in adversity—thanking God when things go wrong, he looked at me with a broad smile and said, “I do believe in this. In fact, it has been my practice to rejoice in this way for many years. For instance, not long ago my glasses dropped and when I looked down they had caught onto my trousers and had not broken. I rejoiced immediately.”

I fully appreciated what this minister meant, and will admit that many do not rejoice as they should and give credit to God for the numerous favors and deliverances He gives us day by day, but what would he have done if his glasses had broken? Would you thank God if they were broken irreparably? Could you believe, by faith, that He would bring blessing from it? This is the challenge. This is the pattern to follow.

Rejoice believing, claiming that all God permits to touch your life is something out of which He can receive glory, and bring about good to you. Try it today. Don't put it off another day. Start now. Praise Him. Thank Him. Bring a blessing to Him with your rejoicing faith.

*Rejoice now. Rejoice in faith. Rejoice always.*

## 62

**D**uring the Second World War, everything was difficult. We were without a studio, equipment, technicians, record blanks—any of the necessities for getting our records manufactured. Rejoice, rejoice. Opportunities on every hand to rejoice and opportunities on every hand to wait for God’s miracles to happen.

One day, when I went to place a large order with the head of the commercial record pressing company who produced our records for us at the time, he regretfully told me, “Sorry, we cannot take your orders anymore. All our facilities are being used for government work. We have no private source for materials, only what the government provides.”

For a moment I was bewildered. Can everything stop just that simply? It can’t. It mustn’t. It won’t. My answer came without hesitation or thought: “But we have faith in God!”

And oh how we prayed and praised with expectation. Rejoice more. Praise more. Pray more. Thank Him more. Believe Him for the impossible. And then one day a message came from the record company, “Bring in all your orders.”

Imagine it. Bring in all your orders! Oh, praise God. The message continued, “A carload of material has just arrived from an unexpected source.”

An unexpected source to them, but our expected source. And from then ‘till the end of the war, they continued to process our records.

*Rejoice more; rejoice always.*

**R**ecently, after a talk I had given on the subject of rejoicing in adversity, the chairman of the meeting said, “Yes, even when things are unpleasant and we have various troubles, we can think of the good things God has done and count our blessings.”

Of course, I agree that we should count our blessings continually and name them one by one in thanksgiving to God. But this man didn’t fully grasp the point of rejoicing in adversity.

If we believe that all that touches our lives is permitted and directed by our Faithful Shepherd who loved us enough to give His life for us, then we can believe that He had a very special reason for bringing a trial to us.

The trial itself is actually a valuable gift presented in coarse wrapping. If we do not open the wrapping and discover the gift, we will be just as poor as we ever were. Experience has proven to me that praise is the effort that removes, without fail, the misleading coverings and reveals the good treasure that is there for us.

So, rejoice. When? When you are misunderstood, treated unfairly, snubbed, suffering and in whatever your pain is to day—because it is in this particular thing that God wants to reveal another special gift to greatly enrich your life. Why not rejoice and accept His good gift today? Why not rejoice evermore?

*Rejoice and accept his good gift; rejoice always.*

# 64

*Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day.*  
- John 8:56

**F**irst, Abraham rejoiced because he believed God's promise about Christ. Then, when he took that step of faith, he was able to understand and *see*. The scales were taken away and he was glad. The elated feeling came later. Yet it was all by faith. Abraham, like God, was able to call the things that are not as though they were.

In my exercise of rejoicing, I have often had to rejoice consistently for a period of time before the particular burden or trial lifted. But I made sure that in rejoicing, I did it from my heart, asking the Lord to continue this test until He had worked out His purpose in me.

I could rejoice in knowing that the trial was in itself good because God had allowed it, and that when it was finished something wonderful would come as a result. That knowledge was in itself a source of joy.

For we know that always in faithfulness He afflicts us.

By faith we can rejoice, and this releases tremendous power to lift us up. Do you need that lifting up today? Begin to rejoice in the midst of your trial and let God lift you up to heavenly places with Him. He wants to do it for you. Rejoice evermore.

*Rejoice in your trial; rejoice always.*

# 65

*Believing, you rejoice.*

**P**eter deals with this subject:

*In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials... Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy... 1 Peter 1:6, 8*

Believing, you rejoice. Meditate on these words. You believe His promise, therefore you rejoice. You believe He has died for you and forgiven all your sins, therefore you rejoice. You believe that He would never bring anything but good to His child, so you rejoice. And there are thousands of other truths that you can believe in and therefore rejoice.

Faith is believing God will do what He says, and acting accordingly. The first thing we can do to 'act accordingly' is to rejoice. Thank Him. Praise Him. Praise is power and it is faith in action. Faith that can rejoice and sing is living faith or lively faith.

When we praise God for the answer ahead of time, we are telling Him and the world that we are trusting Him and we are sure His answer will come.

Praise Him now for that long awaited answer you've been looking for. Believe Him today for good to come from your hard and dark place. Don't lose out on another minute of blessing.

*Rejoice ahead of time; rejoice always.*

**S**ometimes we are confronted by this problem: *Most of the things that get me down are my own fault. How can I rejoice in that?*

If we have done wrong, we must repent and receive forgiveness. At that point we may cease to worry and expect God to deal with us where we are, and begin to work everything together for His glory.

But more often than not, the annoyances that trouble us are not sins at all. For instance, it is not a sin to forget something that we need. Jesus rebuked His disciples strongly for fretting about forgetting to take bread on the boat, although it was obviously their duty. Let us rejoice in matters of this kind and expect God to do a miracle if necessary to make up for that oversight, just as He did for them.

If we could not rejoice about these things, I am afraid I could never fulfill the command to rejoice always, because every day I forget things. At the same time I do not believe that rejoicing in the Lord should allow us to be careless or superficial. It should become a very real sacrifice of praise that goes up to God.

Brother Lawrence gave advice along this line that has been helpful to me. He says that when he had failed in his duty, he confessed his fault, saying to God, "I shall never do otherwise if you leave me to myself, 'tis you must hinder my failing and mend what is amiss." After this he gave himself no further uneasiness about it.

So if you forget something or lose something, even in these small things, rejoice immediately and not after a while.

*Rejoice in forgetting; rejoice always.*

# 67

*...weeping may remain for a night,  
but rejoicing comes in the morning.*  
- Psalm 30:5

**W**hen the weeping heart knows for sure that with the morning will come the answer, not a moment too late, that one will rejoice in sorrow. They will not sorrow as those that have no hope, but in and through it all the God of hope will fill their heart with all joy and peace in believing.

This is the best definition of the Bible kind of hope I have ever seen: *Joy and peace in believing*. It's the same thought as having glad assurance, knowing that God will not fail, or as having expectation with rejoicing.

Here's the entire verse: *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.* - Romans 15:13

This comfort, this hope, this joy, this peace is only possible through the power of the Holy Spirit who dwells in our hearts by faith. And we are made to abound in it through the God of Hope who fills us with His hope.

Are you filled with His joy and peace today? Do you have His deep and settled peace reigning in your heart? Are you ready to believe, and abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit? He's ready whenever you're ready.

*Rejoice in hope; rejoice always.*

# 68

**T**his life of rejoicing in adversity is a life in which we grow from faith to faith and triumph to triumph. I know much more about rejoicing now than I did several years ago, and several years from now I expect to see just that much more. There are areas of my life to which I now see this must apply that I was not aware of before.

I believe, however, that the only way to grow is to look at any failure as definite sin. I remember the remorse and pain I felt when I came to the realization that I was failing to rejoice, and thereby hurting and grieving my Lord. Once this sorrow for sin is experienced, it is painful to think of it being repeated.

At one period in my life I found that whereas I was practicing rejoicing in almost everything (as far as I knew) and exhorting others to do the same, still at one particular point I failed again and again. I often felt ashamed and asked God's forgiveness (and the forgiveness of others when they were involved), but could not stay consistent. Finally the depth and grievousness of my sin dawned on me, and I came to grips with it.

I realized that I had no message for others as long as I habitually failed at any point. I must have His conquering power. Seeing my great need and utter inability to cope with it, I cast myself upon my great Saviour and boldly stepped out on a promise to victory.

Do you see your great need and inability today? Praise God. Now you can let Him take over and lift you to new heights of rejoicing faith through His conquering power. Rejoice in his promises.

*Rejoice in your great need; rejoice always.*

**P**erhaps the best student I ever had in rejoicing was a dear elderly lady. She was full of sorrow and remorse at first to think that she was just beginning, at eighty years of age, to give the Lord praise that was due Him in all things. But she made up for lost time.

She first heard about rejoicing when I spoke at her church missionary society and she really took it to heart. A more faithful and devoted Christian could not be found. It was a new idea to her to rejoice when things went wrong, but for the remaining five or six years of her life she was a stirring example in this matter of giving thanks for everything.

All sorts of things happened to her. She fell and broke a limb. Rejoice. She had various illnesses but she rejoiced continually. It was a marvel to her many friends how quickly she would get well and be up and about again. She always maintained that it was because she rejoiced that God did these miracles in her body. Her faith was an encouragement to me as well as to many others.

Once she handed me a paper bill saying, "This is \$1,000 for the work." When I looked at it, it was just a dollar. Then she said, "I have asked God to make it \$1,000!" And soon after this a gift came to us for \$1,000.

This lady glorified God through her life of rejoicing faith and when she went into the presence of the Lord a few years ago, she "entered His courts with praise."

*Rejoice and make up for lost time; rejoice always.*

# 70

I wish I had access to the scores of letters I have received from people whose lives are not only bringing joy to others through practicing rejoicing in adversity, but are reflecting His glory more and more.

Just today a letter came from a friend, a beautiful young woman who, as a result of polio, has been confined to her bed for many years. She says:

I thought I should write you this morning. Something came that tempted me to be discouraged and immediately I thought of your words: Rejoice the *minute* a difficulty comes. It is indeed a wonderful word of advice not to delay in rejoicing. It is a human weakness to feel that we deserve to indulge in heaviness of spirit for a time. Never, never, can I tell you what this truth has meant to me.

It is no wonder that this dear one from her bed is spreading sunshine to many sufferers as she carries on a wide correspondence ministry, bubbling over with a message of rejoicing to others.

She also finds time, from her bed, to travel with us from country to country and tribe to tribe, and has often sent to us “a word in season” which is like a drink of cold lemonade on a hot march.

Are you spreading sunshine and happiness all around today? You can, you know—when you rejoice. Begin now.

*Rejoice the minute a difficulty comes; rejoice always.*

**A** dear one who is new to all phases of Christian experience wrote just after an acute illness:

I was so pleased. I was able to rejoice all the time. That was a thrill! I didn't have to make myself either. It was just there... every now and then I'm thrilled with the knowledge that there is absolutely *nothing* that the Lord cannot do.

And here is another letter from a loved one who is going through one of the deepest and most excruciating sorrows I have ever heard about. This is her testimony:

My dear Joy, "...*being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joy...*" (Col. 1:11) This has been my verse for some time now. I couldn't rejoice of myself but I finally took it by faith that I am strengthened with His might.

Another friend writes a triumphant letter telling of entering in by faith to a new experience of victory and rejoicing. Among many things she says:

*It is the gilt on the gingerbread and the cream in the coffee.*

Are you experiencing victory and blessing today? Are you a blessing today?

*Rejoice in his glorious power; rejoice always.*

# 72

**O**ur greatest example of rejoicing is the Lord Jesus Himself. It is He who has commanded us to rejoice. This man of sorrows was anointed with the oil of gladness above His fellows. Hear His words spoken on the cross as given in Psalm 22, the prophecy of His actual suffering for us:

*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?*

Then He perfectly fulfills: "...sorrowful, yet always rejoicing." (2 Corinthian 6:10) During His agony on the cross, our Lord bursts forth into praise: *Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the praise of Israel... You who fear the Lord, praise him... honor him! Revere him... From you comes the theme of my praise...*

The Suffering One exults in and glorifies and praises God, for He knows victory is sure.

*All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, for dominion belongs to the Lord and he rules over the nations.*

By His suffering the way is opened up for the nations, and the power is granted for their deliverance. By His sacrifice for us Jesus releases to us the living water so that now, simply by believing, there may flow free from our lives rivers of living water. It is His life within us that now brings fullness of joy.

*I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. - John 15:11*

*Rejoice in suffering; rejoice always.*

# 73

*So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God.*  
- Genesis 45:8

**T**he great secret of rejoicing in adversity lies in these words of Joseph. He understood this truth that Christians today are slow to grasp. Looking at his brothers, Joseph did not dare blame them, for if he had done so, he would have been giving them credit above that which they deserved. He saw God's hand and gave Him glory.

Yes, his brothers were the ones who stripped Joseph of his raiment, conspired to kill him, and finally agreed to sell him for 30 pieces of silver—*man proposes, but God disposes*. Even in this conspiracy of wicked men (and men will pay for their wickedness) God was there to bring salvation to Joseph and to his people through it.

Joseph's brothers meant it to him for evil, but God meant it to him for good. And we can rejoice in adversities because we know that God is using these hard things in order to bring about blessing.

Let's be careful about blaming the devil or others for what happens to us, because in the end, when we see the great good that God performed through what they did, we'll want to attribute all the glory to God.

Do you have your eyes on someone today, holding bitterness in your heart towards them for how their actions affected your situation? Look to Jesus, thank Him for what is happening to you. Tell Him you know a blessing is coming over the next hill and you want to give Him all the thanks and praise and glory now. Rejoice.

*Rejoice and give the credit to God; rejoice always.*

**A** dear man of God, a business man and a member of our board in Los Angeles, was a wonderful example to us in the life of rejoicing, as was his wife.

They had a series of trials that continued so long that we marveled at their endurance. When these fiery trials abated, he had a heart attack at his office and was gone before his wife could reach him.

Before the funeral, she told the ones who were officiating to emphasize rejoicing. She sat in the front row during the service and her face was radiant. The veteran missionary who offered the prayer said, “We thank You, Heavenly Father, for taking our loved one. We rejoice in You.” To our amazement this fragile woman, whom we expected to collapse, went on from that day triumphantly.

Receive every inward and outward trouble, every disappointment, pain, uneasiness, temptation, darkness and desolation with both hands, as a true opportunity and blessed occasion of dying to self and entering into fuller fellowship with thy self-denying and suffering Saviour. Look at no trouble in any other way. Reject every other thought about it, then every kind of trial and distress will become the blessed day of thy prosperity. Even deep sorrow can be turned to joy when received with thanksgiving. - *Dr. Fred Mitchell*

Receive thankfully, with both hands, whatever God is offering to you today. Take it with praise. Offer Him thanks. Rejoice.

*Rejoice in your trial triumphantly; rejoice always.*

# 75

I have a lovely Word for you today.

In nothing be anxious, in nothing terrified by your adversaries, in nothing ashamed or dismayed—but in everything give thanks. Rejoice in the Lord always.

*Anxious?*

You need not be anxious because if you pray in faith with thanksgiving He will answer you and give you the peace that passes understanding.

*Terrified?*

You need not fear your adversaries because all their plans and purposes against you will be frustrated, and what they do will bring you some better thing. The Word says their attacks will turn against themselves and be to you salvation.

*Ashamed?*

You never need to be ashamed because whether things turn out one way or another, your greatest desire is to show forth His miracle of grace in your life that Christ may be magnified through your body, whether it be by life or death.

*Rejoice!*

*In everything give thanks; rejoice always.*

**P**ersonally, I have no doubt that not to rejoice is sin. But there are very few who will openly and unequivocally declare that it is a sin to disobey the command, *rejoice*.

Dr. McQuilken was the first one who presented this truth so that it was made clear to me. I was a young woman, 19 years of age, just finishing my first year at the university and it was at the time of our final exams. Worry was my middle name and yet, here I was taking time to listen to this man speak:

Worry is sin...It is a sin not to be happy... We must rejoice evermore—another meaning for evermore is everywhen... We must give thanks to God at all times for all things.

This was what I needed—the shoe fit. I remember how uncompromising the speaker was about it. There was no loophole. Either I would keep on with my sinning, or step out of the old life into a new experience. I remember his words well:

The secret is surrender and trust. Surrender your whole life and your sin to God, turn your back on it and trust Christ in the person of the Holy Spirit to take over. The victory is *Christ in you*. Believe His words and thank Him for His presence in your heart. Praise Him that He is your victory *now*.

I did it and from that day forward my life was different. It was like an about-face for me. It had to be. And it will be for you too, when you realize this is fundamental and not just supplemental teaching.

*Rejoice for victory now; rejoice always.*

**R**ight here for your encouragement, I wish to pass on to you the testimony of one whose case, not so many months ago, looked so difficult to me that I could only say, “Lord, You have said that which is impossible with man is possible with You.”

This friend, after receiving the message of rejoicing and trying to put it into practice, became aware that it was utterly impossible in her own strength. She was under deep conviction of sin because of her repeated failure to rejoice in adverse circumstances. Knowing that she could not continue as she was, she cast herself upon the Lord and let go of her own strivings, allowing the Holy Spirit within her to fulfill it. Here is a portion of her testimony:

The beauty of the rising sun, the joy and praise that filled my heart was almost too great to contain. How truly I can say now, ‘Isn’t it wonderful.’ Not just with my lips, but from my innermost being. My circumstances have not changed, but praise the Lord, everything seems now to be lifted above the ordinary realm of things to a higher plane than I have ever known. Truly I feel that moment by moment I am now living with my Lord in heavenly places.

For with rejoicing one lives above the things that would so get us down, harass and concern us. Everything is changed—our outlook is so different. Things that would previously have irritated and vexed us, no longer have power to do so. It’s just a glorious feeling of deliverance, praise God.

*Let go, and permit the Holy Spirit to rejoice in you.*

# 78

*Jacob moaned and complained,  
"All these things are against me." - Genesis 42:36*

**S**hall we say "Poor Jacob" or shall we congratulate him? We have to read to the end of the story.

In defense of poor Jacob, let us take into account that as far as he knew, Joseph had been killed. The rest of his sons had been a disappointment, except for Benjamin, who was his favorite. And now Benjamin was to be taken away from him and Jacob doubted whether he would ever see this son again. On top of all these things, there was a famine in the land which gave no promise of letting up.

But on the other hand, let us look at the things as they actually were instead of how Jacob imagined them to be. Joseph was very much alive; he was the ruler of Egypt, and at that very hour he was planning everything for the comfort and happiness of his aged father and brothers — home, food, security, comforts, honour, and the satisfaction of having the whole family living permanently together again.

Jacob wasted many precious years because he would not trust where he could not see. We cannot excuse him on the basis of his not knowing any better, for his own son Joseph never deviated from an attitude of faith and rejoicing through all the stormy experiences and malicious intrigues of his eventful life. He could say confidently, "All these things are for me."

Will you say confidently today, "All these things are for me?" Will you trust God in the very circumstance in which you find yourself right now? Will you rejoice now?

*Rejoice confidently... Rejoice now... Rejoice evermore!*

**T**his life of rejoicing will be wonderful in the proportion that faith firmly takes hold on God, and where there is no doubt whatever nor the slightest shadow of question as to the Father's goodness and power. And as a writer puts it,

*"If the will has set itself once for all like a rock against such doubts, in vain will the tides of human circumstance dash themselves against this barrier of trust."*

The prophet in Habakkuk 3 gives this secret:

*"Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labor of the olive shall fail and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls; Yet will I rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation."*

He set His will to rejoice even though every circumstance was against him. And we too — without paying attention to feelings or emotions, must always begin here. Though our friends leave us, though our health fails, or we suffer loss, our declaration must be throughout: I WILL REJOICE IN THE LORD. The prophet goes on to say, *"The Lord God is my strength and He will make my feet like hind's feet and He will make me to walk upon mine high places."*

The high places are our low places. They are our places of defeat, our besetting temptations, the hindrances that intercept our progress, but now with hind's feet we can dominate them with a light springing step. Through praise we will be always on top, able to walk, to skip, to run!

*Rejoice with unaltering firmness... Rejoice evermore!*

**I**f you didn't have a hard test this week against praise and rejoicing, you did not have the chance to prove His exceeding grace and power in your spirit!

God desires praise. He asks us to praise Him. Over and over He repeats that He wants our praise, and the praise of all. One cannot do it for another – each has his part to play in His orchestra; not one instrument must remain silent.

*“Let all the people praise Thee, Oh God, Let all the people praise Thee. Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us, and all the ends of the earth shall reverence Him.” - Psalm 67:6-7.*

First praise, then shall the earth yield her increase, then shall God bless us. Then shall the ends of the earth reverence Him. Then shall revival come.

His name will be made known with conviction unto the ends of the earth. Tribes will be reached. The lost will be sought and won. The rebellious shall be saved. The increase is sure! God is waiting to pour out blessing, until there is no room to receive it! ARE YOU READY? ARE YOU REJOICING?

*Whenever ..... make it your choice to rejoice!*



# ABOUT JOY RIDDERHOF

**J**oy Ridderhof was born March 30, 1903 and was the youngest daughter of six children. Joy learned at an early age her need of a Savior. While attending Columbia Bible College at age 19, she began to learn the truths of rejoicing faith. As she started to apply these in her daily walk with the Lord, this made her life a radiant inspiration.



These truths of scripture were to stand her in good stead when she became a missionary to a small tribe in Honduras. Because of health problems, her work was cut short, forcing her to return to her home in Los Angeles, California. Although this seemed to be a terrible setback to her missionary career, Joy set her will to rejoice in the Lord, believing that God had a better plan. And He did!

As Joy prayed for her people in Honduras, she remembered the many spring-wound phonographs blaring out songs in the villages where she had once ministered. Slowly, a thought crystallized. Phonograph records could reproduce one voice a thousand times over without tiring. If only someone produced Spanish records to sing and preach the gospel. Most of her people could not read—but they could listen.

Sensing God was in this, Joy took steps of faith to make several Spanish records at a local recording studio. She sent these on to her people where they did indeed provide spiritual food. They

also caught the attention of other missionaries and before long the demand for Spanish gospel records greatly increased. And not just in Spanish. Other languages were requested too. And it wasn't long before God's purpose for Joy and her fledgling mission began to emerge: to put the gospel of Jesus Christ into all of the world's languages.

Her obedience to God's call to rejoice in the Lord no matter how difficult her circumstances, led to the challenge to record the gospel for every language group. As a result, thousands of language groups have been blessed through hearing the good news of Jesus Christ through Global Recordings Network.



*Joy and Sanna Barlow with the first portable tape recorder*

Joy Ridderhof never intended to write a devotional book. She was too gripped by the needs of millions who couldn't read and needed to HEAR about Jesus' death and resurrection for them if they were to know the God who loves them.

However, from every corner of the earth, she wrote letters home to friends, family, coworkers, and prayer partners. Her words inspired them, kept their knees bowed in prayer and their hands raised in praise.

Her words reveal a God worthy of being trusted and rejoiced in at all times, a God who responds to the praise and rejoicing faith of His people, and a God for whom nothing is impossible. Read through these devotional pages and join this journey of joy and see where God takes you.

Joy Ridderhof lived 1 Peter 1:8, "Though you have not seen Him, you love Him. Though you do not now see Him, you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory." God used her joyful faith and sacrificial life to spread His Word around the world. Our prayer is that you also will know this joy and faith in God as you follow Him.



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