

Rejoicing in the Lord Jesus in all Cases and Conditions

Habakkuk 3:10-19

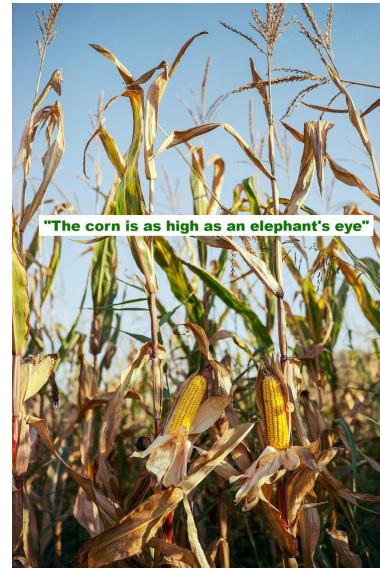
“Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice!” (Phil. 4:4) “I’ve got a wonderful feeling. Everything’s going my way.” These words from the famous musical, “Oklahoma!” describe the basis for the feelings of most people. They can be happy and rejoice **when things are going their way**, but not in all

cases and conditions. When things are not “going their way” it results in unhappy feelings, bad moods and even depression.

The world’s happiness stems from **happenings**. We have the expression “happy-go-lucky” (normally describing a carefree person). If things go “lucky” then the person can be happy. It is happiness that is based on happenstance and fortuitous happenings. As believers in Christ, we are to rejoice in the Lord Jesus no matter what the circumstances are in which the Lord may place us, and no matter what might be happening around us. This is because our joy is **not** based on changeable circumstances, but **our joy is in the Lord** who never changes, and His plan for us is best even though it may involve trials, difficulties and suffering.

The believer could rewrite that popular song in this way, **“I’ve got such blessed assurance. Everything’s going God’s way!”** “As for God, His way is perfect” (Psalm 18:30), and thus we can always be rejoicing (1 Thess. 5:16), knowing that through thick and thin our great God is working in us that which is well-pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ, that great Shepherd of the sheep (Heb. 13:20-21). Cheer up ye saints of God; **Be glad and joyful in the Lord your God.** “Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines...and the fields shall yield no meat...and there shall be no herd in the stalls: **Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation**” (Hab. 3:17-18).

George Zeller, www.middletownbiblechurch.org



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