

Going Deeper

5- Day Devotional

Week 2, Day 2: The Leadership of Joy

Verse of the Day

Philippians 4:4-7

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.”

Primary Focus Statement

Joy is not a feeling you wait for but a decision you make that leads your heart and mind in every trial.

Devotional Teaching

The word “count” in James 1:2 is not passive. It is active. It is a leadership word. It carries the idea of governing your thoughts, deciding what goes first, and setting the direction for everything that follows.

In battle, the leader determines the direction of the army. In your life, your leading thought determines the direction of your heart. When trials hit, something will take the lead. The question is what.

Will fear take the lead? Will anger take the lead? Will control take the lead? Or will joy lead?

Paul echoes this same truth when he writes to the church in Philippians. Rejoice in the Lord always. This is not based on circumstances. It is rooted in who God is. This is not emotional denial. It is spiritual alignment.

Joy in this context is not happiness. It is a deep, settled confidence that God is who He says He is and will do what He has promised to do. It is a choice to trust Him even when you do not understand Him.

When you choose joy, you are not ignoring reality. You are declaring that God is greater than your reality. You are choosing to believe that He is present, He is working, and He is faithful.

This is spiritual warfare. Because everything in your flesh wants to lead with fear or control. But when you let joy lead, you are aligning your heart with truth and placing your trust fully in God.

Today, when your emotions rise, do not follow them blindly. Lead them. Choose joy. Not because life is easy, but because God is faithful.

Reflection

What typically leads your thinking when things get difficult?

How does fear or control show up in your responses?

What would it look like to intentionally let joy lead in your current situation?

Do you truly believe God is in control right now?

Action Step

When you feel overwhelmed today, say out loud, “God, I trust You,” and choose to let that truth lead your thoughts.