

Thrive! Living in Real Joy
Practicing Joy
Philippians 4:1-5

Life can be overwhelming. The world that we have created produces violence, terminal illness, tragedy, and uncertainty. Even nature seems to come against us and take what we have worked so hard to obtain. It seems that the only reason the world wants to believe in God is so they have someone to pin this stuff on—but what about maturing believers? How does the Bible describe the attitude of those who are maturing in their belief in Jesus as Lord?

1. Believers are to _____
 - A. Stand fast in _____
 - B. Stand fast in _____
 - C. Stand fast in _____
2. Believers are to _____
 - A. _____ rejoice
 - B. _____ rejoice
3. Believers are to be _____
 - A. The Lord is _____
 - B. The Lord _____ everything
 - C. The Lord _____ everything

God is not glorified when we define rejoicing as pretending that nothing is wrong. He is not glorified when we make light of horrific things. Instead, God is glorified when in the deepest possible pain we say, “I trust You, Lord. Help me.” God is glorified when we acknowledge that everything is His—our lives, our families, our loved ones, our possessions. Are we willing to trust that the Creator of the universe loves the things we love with just as much passion and just as much care?