

## February 20 Adult Spiritual Growth Class Synopsis

### **Anxious for Nothing: Chapter 4: Rejoice in the Lord Always**

**What do you think when you hear the words, “God’s Glory”?**

**What do you think when you hear, “His powerful word holding all things together”?**

**Where in your life have you seen God use difficult, tragic or even evil events for good?**

The Apostle Paul tells his Philippian brethren to *“rejoice in the Lord always”*, even through hardships, persecution, danger, suffering and loss, for the Lord is at hand. The Lord Jesus, *who is the beaming radiance of God’s glory, the exact likeness of God’s being, uses His powerful Word to hold all things together (Hebrews 1:3)*, including our lives. God’s glory is the magnificence, worth, loveliness, and grandeur of His many perfections. God conveys His glory through His creation, image-bearers, providence, and redemptive acts such that we, as God’s people, can only respond by glorifying Him, rejoicing in His endless mercies and amazing grace.

We are to always remember that our Lord is not distant, He is not removed, but is the *One before all things, and in Him all things are held together (Colossians 1:17)*. Lucado says that were the Lord to step back, all creation would collapse and would spell our evaporation. *For in Him we live and move and have our being. (Acts 17:28). He is a present help in time of trouble (Psalm 46:1); He never sleeps and always resides in the City of Joy; He makes it unstoppable, unshakable. When it awakes at dawn, the True God has already been at work. (Psalm 46:5)*

*It is in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, He had His eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose He is working out in everything and everyone (Ephesians 1:11-12, The Message).*

*“You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good.” (Genesis 50:20)* Can you relate to Joseph’s reflection? The life of Joseph gives a testament of the sovereignty and grace of God for those who live faithfully and righteously. Despite being sold into slavery by his brothers, Joseph remained faithful and trusted in God to deliver him from tribulation. Additionally, Joseph’s story shows how God’s plan may not be obvious to our limited perspective but indeed “all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.”

We can find assurance and strength in similar stories of immense faith given in times of great loss and tribulation, such as with Horatio Spafford and his hymn “It is well with my soul”, and of tested and restored faith in God working His eternal providence through seemingly bleak circumstances, such as with David and Svea Flood, Congo missionaries of the 1920’s.

[It Is Well With My Soul: The Story Behind the Hymn - Horatio Spafford - YouTube](#)

[The Story of Aggie Berg Hurst - Bing video](#)

Of course, the greatest testimony to God’s perfect plan, taking that which was evil and of death and making into holiness and life, was spoken by Peter to the crowd on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2:22-24. *“You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves*

*know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power.”*

Peter’s testimony concludes with the words of David concerning the Lord in Acts 2:25-28:

“I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.”

May we also give praise and rejoice in the Lord always as with David.

A song to reflect and pray on:

[IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL \(Arr. David Wise\) #ItsWell #StudioSinging #NashvilleStrong - YouTube](#)

## **Looking ahead – Sunday February 27**

Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World

Section 2: Ask God For Help – *Let your requests be known to God*

Chapter 5 – Contagious Calm – *Anxiety is needless because God is near*