

The First Choice  
Choose Joy  
January 1, 2023

Isaiah 61:1-4 NKJV

- Theme: God has given us the ABILITY to experience joy, but it is a choice.  
- 2 Corinthians 6:10
- The First Choice
  - ✓ Prayer should be our FIRST RESPONSE not our last RESORT  
- Philippians 4:4-5
  - 1) Prayer replaces WORRY - Philippians 4:6a, Matthew 6:27, 34
    - ✓ What we worry about most reveals where we trust God the LEAST
  - 2) Prayer relinquishes CONTROL - Philippians 4:6b-7, 1 Peter 5:7,  
- Romans 15:13
    - ✓ It can't be God's problem and MY problem at the same time.
  - 3) Prayer regulates THINKING - Philippians 4:8, Colossians 3:2 NLT
    - ✓ Aim at Heaven and you'll get Earth thrown in. Aim at Earth and you'll get NEITHER. - C. S. Lewis
  - 4) Prayer reveals CONTENTMENT - Philippians 4:12, Psalm 23:1 NLT
    - ✓ I will not trust in riches but in Him who RICHLY PROVIDES.
  - 5) Prayer relies ON GOD - Philippians 4:13, 19, Proverbs 16:20
    - ✓ Prayer doesn't move God TOWARD US. Prayer moves us TOWARD GOD.