



# STAYING CONNECTED

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR OUR MCIVOR CHURCH FAMILY

---

May 24, 2026

## A WORD FROM PASTOR PIERRE

*Keep rejoicing in the Lord. I say it again, keep rejoicing. Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon. Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 4:4-7

How can Paul exhort his readers to live lives characterized by joy and happiness in the face of the pain that is so much a part of our existence?

And don't think for one second that Paul was insulated from life's difficulties. When he wrote the letter to the Philippians, he was in jail and facing an uncertain future. And yet, he tells his readers about the joy that is so much part of who he is.

How can we possibly account for Paul's mystifying ability to rejoice in the face of life's trials?

First, Paul knew that what we see is not the whole story. There exists another greater, deeper, and infinitely more massive reality where purpose, joy, peace and laughter permeate everything (Philippians 2:17; 3:13-14, 20-21).

Second, joy is a choice. Paul's command to rejoice assumes that we have agency. We can choose whether we will let the joy of Christ radiate in our souls, or let the world's poison

slowly infect us (Philippians 3:1).

Third, joy is not to be found in avoiding the vicissitudes of life. Happiness emanates in the pursuit of God's purpose for us amid the challenges intrinsic to human existence (Philippians 2:1-2, 17-18, 29-30).

Fourth, to rejoice **in** the Lord is to invite God to be right at the center of our lives. The universe is so designed that it is only when we pursue God that joy will unexpectedly surprise us (Philippians 3:8-11).

Fifth, joy erupts when we cultivate an inner disposition of gentleness that overflows into the community (Philippians 4:17).

And finally, joy and peace will flood our hearts as we cultivate an intimate relationship with God (Philippians 4:9).

*There is no other way to the happiness for which we were made. Good things as well as bad, you know, are caught by a kind of infection. If you want to get warm you must stand near the fire; if you want to be wet you must get into the water. If you want joy, power, peace, eternal life, you must get close to, or even into, the thing that has them. They are not a sort of prizes which God could, if He chose, just hand out to anyone. They are a great fountain of energy and beauty spurting up at the very centre of reality. If you are close to it, the spray will wet you; if you are not, you will remain dry. Once a man is united to God, how could he not live forever? Once a man is separated from God, what can he do but wither and die?" – C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity*



# McIvor LIFE

## GIVING

We accept donations by cash, cheque, e-transfers to [mcivor@mcivorchurch.com](mailto:mcivor@mcivorchurch.com), or via credit card (scan the QR code). For Direct Deposit, contact the office.

### McIvor Avenue MB Church

200 McIvor Ave., Winnipeg, MB, R2G 0Z8

[mcivorchurch.com](http://mcivorchurch.com) | 204.339.1691 | [mcivor@mcivorchurch.com](mailto:mcivor@mcivorchurch.com)

Office hours: Tuesday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



@mcivorchurch2407



@mcivor\_church

