I'VE GOT THE JOY DOWN IN MY HEART

During VBS, this has always been a favorite song that the kids like to sing. Why shouldn't we have joy in our heart? The apostle Paul mentions "joy" 19 times in letter he wrote to the church in Philippi. How could this man be so happy? Especially when he was a prisoner.

Joy does not depend on what is going on around you, but what is going within you! No one can make you unhappy unless you are willing to admit that other people can control your life. One of the teaching of God's Word is the fact that we are to control ourselves. Ever man is to "rule his spirit" (Prov. 16:32). Each one of us is accountable to God, not only for our actions, but also for our attitudes.

If we center our plans and actions on the Lord, like Paul, we can be filled with joy. But when we do our own way rather than God's, we generate our own misery.

When one has a sour, gloomy, negative attitude, will usually be a tired, exhausted and unsuccessful person. It takes a lot of energy to be sad. A joyous person is always accomplish more than a sad person. Nehemiah wrote, "The joy of the Lord is your strength" (Neh. 8:19). Isn't a job always easier to do when you are happy about it?

Have you ever wondered, "What kind of person am I? Am I that enthusiastic, happy, joyful person?

If you let other people control your life, then you are never sure what is going to happen to you. If you let others control your feelings, you are never quite sure whether you will be sad or full of joy. When we submit ourselves to Christ and let Him control us, He will give a wonderful, beautiful and joyous life regardless of where you are, what the circumstances may be, or what others may do to you. There can be peace, purpose and a genuine joy when we have the "Joy, joy, joy down deep in our hearts!"