

TOWER TOPICS



May 2026

Life is filled with changing seasons—times of celebration and moments of challenge. In every circumstance, all of us at First Baptist Church Mansfield would love the opportunity to walk through these seasons with you.

We receive our encouragement from God’s Holy Word. Philippians 4:4–8 invites us to “Rejoice in the Lord always.” The Apostle Paul wrote these words while facing hardship himself, yet his message rings clear: joy is a choice, not a result of perfect circumstances. Even when life is uncertain, we are called to anchor our hearts in the unshakable joy that God provides.

Paul reminds us that the Lord is near. This nearness is a comfort and an assurance—God is not distant from our struggles. Whether we are facing disappointment or delight, His presence surrounds us, offering hope and strength.

Because God is close, we need not carry our anxieties alone. Instead of letting worries take root, we are encouraged to bring everything to God in prayer, with thanksgiving. Gratitude isn’t reserved for times when life is easy—it is a practice that transforms our hearts in every season.

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As we thank God for His goodness, even in difficulty, our perspective shifts from fear to faith. Through honest prayer and a grateful heart, we open ourselves to God's peace—a peace that transcends our understanding and guards our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Paul also urges us to be intentional with our thoughts: to focus on what is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, and praiseworthy. This practice shapes how we see ourselves, our circumstances, and our God. By choosing to dwell on these things, we cultivate a mindset that welcomes joy and gratitude, regardless of what we face.

Today, may you choose joy in every circumstance, knowing God is near. Practice gratitude in prayer, and let His peace guard your heart. As you fix your thoughts on all that is good, may your life overflow with the hope and assurance that come from Him alone.

Rev. Cheryl L. Filson
