



12.2.2018 || Philippians 4:4

Advent: Derived from the Latin *Adventus* which means *arrival or coming into place*. In Church history it has always carried a dual focus.

- The **Parousia** (*Greek*)
 - The coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh (The Incarnation)
 - The second coming of Jesus to judge all the world
- The season of Advent is traditionally a time the church set aside to focus on **both** the 1st and the 2nd arrival of Jesus.
 - The church would spend a portion of the season contemplating the reality of Jesus' return to the earth: **confessing** sin, **considering** the state of their hearts, and **praying** for His return.
 - The church would then and transition their focus to the first arrival, **reflecting** on when Jesus was born as the savior of the world.

Advent is a way for the church to consider our place in God's unfolding story and what it **practically** means for us to live between these two realities: The already **completed** advent of Jesus and the **anticipated** advent of Jesus that is yet to come.

- Common practices during an Advent season include...
 - The **lighting** of candles (see *John 8:12, Isaiah 9:2*)
 - Scripture **reading** and reflection



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- **Singing** Christ honoring songs
- The celebration of Advent (and even Christmas) should be a matter of **conviction** (*Romans 14:5-6*).
- The disciplines that often accompany Advent should be a **lifestyle** for the Christian.

Advent: REJOICE

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! (*Phil 4:4*)

How does the Bible describe **Joy**? In scripture the word joy is joined with **Pleasure** (*Psalm 16:11*), **Thankfulness** (*Psalm 107:22*), **Laughter** (*Psalm 126:2*), **Cheerfulness** (*Ecclesiastes 9:7*), **Delight** (*Jeremiah 15:16*) and **Gladness** (over 24 times including *Psalm 21:6*).

- **Rejoice Always** is not about putting on a smile and pretending like things are ok all the time. Rather, it is about your life in Christ **as a display** of delight, pleasure, cheerfulness, and gladness in God.
 - **Embrace**: Thanksgiving, praise, and contentment
 - **Repent of**: Criticality, complaining, and hopelessness

LifeTruth #1: If we believe something will **increase** our **joy**, then we will greatly **anticipate** its arrival.

LifeTruth #2: God **gives** us the Joy that He **commands** of us, through the person of Jesus Christ.

LifeTruth #3: To anticipate the **Advent of Christ** is to anticipate the increase of your own joy.

How do we live in anticipation of His advent? He must **increase** and we must **decrease**.

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