

## Finding Your Joy

I want to give you a little taste of what the Bible says about joy.

Did you know that the objective of all Jesus taught was the joy of his people?

John 15:11 These things I have spoken to you, that my **joy** may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Did you know that Joy is what God fills us with when we put our faith in Christ?

Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all **joy** and peace in believing.

Becoming a Christian is finding a joy that makes you willing to forsake everything.

Matthew 13:44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his **joy** he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

Did you know that the Kingdom of God is joy.

Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and **joy** in the Holy Spirit.

Did you know the primary work of the apostles was to help people find their joy?

2 Corinthians 1:24 Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your **joy**.

Did you know that joy will overtake all sorrow for those who put their confidence in God?

Psalms 126:5 Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of **joy**!

Psalms 30:5b Weeping may tarry for the night, but **joy** comes with the morning.

And no one can rob you of your joy!

John 16:22 You have sorrow now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your **joy** from you.

The entire message of Christianity from the beginning to the end is the good news of great joy!

Luke 2:10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great **joy** that will be for all the people."

Matthew 25:23 His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant.... Enter into the **joy** of your master."

Joy is more than a feeling, Joy is a choice!

Old Testament

Psalms 37:4 Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Psalms 32:11 Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

De. 12:18 "... rejoice before the Lord your God in all that you undertake."

Jesus commands us "Rejoice and leap for joy for your reward is great in heaven" (Luke 6:23)

Apostle Paul commands us "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice" (Philippians 4:4).

Philippians 2:17,18 NIV But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and **rejoice** with all of you. **18** So you too should be glad and **rejoice** with me.

Galatians 5:7 NIV We live by faith, not by sight

5:5,6 (ESV) He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. **v.6** So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, **v. 7** for we walk by faith, not by sight.

Philippians 3.1 "Finally, my brothers, **rejoice** in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you."

1) Re-Joy Yourself by Rejoicing in God Right Now.

2) Resist Religion and Re-Joy Yourself in the Kindness of Jesus.

Phil 3:2,3 Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh. **3** For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh

Phil 3:9 "... not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ..."

3) Remove Your Past Disappointments and Re-Joy Yourself by Reaching Forward.

Phil 3:13-14 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, **14** I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

What's a choice that you can make today that will help you move your life forward toward a life of joy?