
The Joyful Christian

Overview:

Christian joy is unique because it goes far beyond our feelings and circumstances. For the Christian, our joy is ultimately rooted in who God is. How can we, as Believers, grow in this joy? And why is it important for the world around us to experience the joy in us?

I. Why we have joy

- a. God's Saving Grace (Luke 1:47)
 - i. Salvation is a treasure (Matt 13:44)
- b. God's Sustaining Grace (Psalm 55:22)
 - i. God is with us (yesterday, today, forever)
 - ii. Our cars, homes & bodies will fail us, but God never will
- c. Joy comes from the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22)
 - i. It is a fruit of God working in our life

II. Increasing in joy

- a. Prayer fuels joy (John 16:24)
 - i. Demonstrates thankfulness, dependency and expectancy
 - ii. (DMV) Front of line, every time
- b. God's Word feeds joy (Jeremiah 15:16)
 - i. Get into God's Word (Read it!)
 - ii. Memorize God's Word
 - iii. Meditate on God's Word
- c. The joy of fellowship (2 John 12)
 - i. The church is a family
 - ii. Unity, all things in common

III. The world needs to experience our joy

- a. Do we demonstrate unshakable faith? (Matt. 5:14-15)
- b. "This little light of mine..."
- c. Spirit-empowered to share the joy we have with others
- d. We have influence in a world that desperately needs joy

CLOSE:

God has promised to be our limitless supply of exceeding joy both in this life and the next. Not because He owes it to us or is obliged to give to us. But because of Who He is. Believers have access to this unshakable joy in God through faith in Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit. A joy that is on display in every area of the Christian's life. It is a joy that has the ability to impact the lives of those around us as well.

Supporting Material:

Verses:

Psalm 16:11

"You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore."

Psalm 35:9

"Then my soul will rejoice in the Lord, exulting in his salvation."

Luke 1:37

"And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,"

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."

Galatians 5:22

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,"

Philippians 2:2

"complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind."

Philemon 1:7

"For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you."

2 Timothy 1:4

"As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy."

Quotes:

"It is His joy that remains in us that makes our joy full." - **A. B. Simpson**

"The Lord gives his people perpetual joy when they walk in obedience to him." - **D.L. Moody**

"If you have no joy, there's a leak in your Christianity somewhere." - **Billy Sunday**

"Joy is the serious business of heaven". - **C.S. Lewis**

"Joy is not necessarily the absence of suffering, it is the presence of God" - **Sam Storms**

Resources:

John Piper: Jesus and the Journey To Joy (Six Part Study)
<https://www.desiringgod.org/series/jesus-and-the-journey-to-joy/articles>

R.C. Sproul: Joy (4 Part Teaching Series)
<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/series/joy/>

Discussion Questions:

1. "Am I the kind of Christian who brings joy to others when they think of me?"
2. "What are some things that can make it difficult for you to feel joyful? How can fixing your eyes on Jesus help in those moments?"
3. "Have you ever experienced trials that pushed you further away from joy?"
4. "In your own words, how would you explain to someone what it means to have true joy?"

Notes:
