

Joy, The Missing Element

Joy Defined:

A feeling of happiness that is based on spiritual realities (based on truth).
A deep-down sense of well-being that abides in the heart of the person who knows all is well between himself and God.

⇒ Joy is that deep, abiding, inner rejoicing in the Lord.

That cheerfulness, calm, delight, gladness

Scripture:

John 15:11

These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

John 16:20-22

²⁰Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy. ²¹A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world. ²²And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.

Of all people, believers in Jesus Christ have reason for Joy

⇒ The joy in coming to Jesus – Luke 19:6; Matthew 13:44

⇒ Joy that is a Holy Spirit produced fruit in the believer – Galatians 5:22

⇒ Joy from the privilege of intimacy they have with God – James 4:8

⇒ The joy of forgiveness and a settled eternity – 1 John 2:12

“God’s purpose for my life is that I have a passion for God’s glory and that I have passion for my joy in that glory. And that these two are one passion.”

Jonathan Edwards

Believers miss the element of joy when:

1. They forget the meaning of our salvation

- Forgiveness
- Eternal life
- Ability to experience true freedom – Freedom from the bondage and guilt of sin

“Many sorrows shall be to the wicked” – Psalm 32:10a

2. They lose intimacy with God because of sin

Psalm 51:12a - Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation

- Sin in a believer’s life robs the person of joy
“It is impossible to live with peace in your heart and rebellion in your actions.”

3. They fail to recall our blessings

- Just think for a moment and you will realize how blessed you really are!

4. Their joy is based upon some point in the future

“The reason we have to search for so many things to cheer us up is the fact that we are not really joyful and contentedly happy within.” . . . A.W. Tozer

What can I have joy in in the here and now?

5. Their joy is based upon another rather than the Lord

- The condition of a relationship
- The approval of another
“It is part of my belief that God wants to get us to a place where we would still be happy if we had only him! We don’t need God and something else. God does give us Himself and lets us have other things, too, but there is that inner loneliness until we reach the place where it is only God that we desire.”
A.W. Tozer

6. They focus upon our self and negative circumstances

- The opposite of joy is self-pity
- If we major on the problem, the problem grows. If we major on the ability of God to help us the problem diminishes.

*“Don’t judge God by your circumstances.
Judge your circumstances by God.”*

This is something the enemy wants to draw our attention to – self and negative circumstances

7. They fail to trust God

- Giving thanks is the highest expression of trust
“Discouraging circumstances always call for a reaffirmation of truth.”

Choose to trust God

“Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.” – Corrie Ten Boom

Invitation:

Are you ready to begin intentionally choosing joy?

Is there something in your life that you need to turn from in order to experience the joy that can be yours?

Is there something specifically you need to trust God with?