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9/7/2022

JOY- Gladness not based on circumstances.

Today is the day that the Lord has made, I will **rejoice** and be glad in it.

1. What's stopping your joy today?

2. Do you know many people never experience real joy?

- Some settle for moments of joy, but we are supposed to have joy every day and all the time.
- Many people are looking to their *spouse, job, kids, friends, family, hobbies*, and all sort of things to get joy.

3. Is Joy different from happiness?

Happiness- is a state of well-being; a pleasurable or satisfying experience.

Rejoice- related to the word *joy*, is to feel great delight; to be glad.

- Depending on the translation, the Bible uses the words *happy* and *happiness* about **30 times**, while *joy* and *rejoice* appear over **300 times**.

- Joy is more than happiness. It is not based on financial success, good health, or popularity. By believing in God, obeying his will, receiving his forgiveness, participating in fellowship with other believers, ministering to others, and sharing the Gospel, believers will experience joy.

4. Do trust have impact on your Joy?

- As you put your trust in God you will have joy.

5. What does it mean that “The Joy of the Lord is our strength.”

- Joy don't come from people or things it comes from God.

6. How does relationship with God impact your Joy?

- If your relationship with him is not right, you will have a hard time experiencing joy.

7. Have you ever tried to buy Joy?

- Some of us go to Disney Land to have joy, but when we leave what happens to our **joy**. We go right back to our joyless life.

8. How often are we supposed to rejoice?

(Philippians 4:4) The Bible says, Rejoice in the Lord **ALWAYS**. Again, I will say, rejoice.

- God says to rejoice, because when we rejoice, we bring in his power and protection in our lives.

(James 1:2) says, “Consider it all joy, my brothers, when you encounter various trials.”

- Christians can have **Joy**, even in the midst of difficulties, because we know “the testing of our faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing” **(verses 3–4)**.
- All through Scripture we see the persecution of the church, the trials, and hardships that believers have faced. The challenge then is to truly learn how to consider each trial joy.
- As we persevere through trials, with God’s help, our faith strengthens and matures. By God’s grace we can have **JOY** despite our circumstances.

9. How can I find joy in the midst of trials?

- When trials and tough times comes in our lives, we begin to question, “why?” Wondering how we can endure horrible circumstances and consider it joy.

(1 Peter 1:6–9) In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

- In both of these passages, we see the instruction of what we should do.
- ❖ Consider it pure joy. In this you greatly rejoice.

10. Why? Because trials make us stronger.

- The James passage clearly states that the testing of our faith produces perseverance.
- The Peter passage states that our faith, which is priceless, will be proved genuine and result in praise to God.

11. But how? How can we find joy in the midst of all the junk, hardships, and painful circumstances?

- ❖ **First, we need to understand that the joy the world gives is not the same as the joy the Spirit gives.**
 - Worldly joy or happiness comes and goes as often as waves hitting the shore.
 - It isn't something you can cling to when you've lost a loved one or are facing bankruptcy.
 - The Spirit's joy or happiness, on the other hand, can stay with you for the long haul. For the believer, the fruit of the Spirit, including joy, is like a bottomless well of water—there's always an abundant supply. Even in the darkest days, when sadness, grief, and loss may threaten to overwhelm you, God's joy is there.
- ❖ **Second, we need to understand that God's joy cannot be taken away.**
 - You might think that it's gone—that the hands of misfortune have snatched it from you—but it's not.

- As believers, we are promised the constant presence of the Holy Spirit.
- We are promised His joy. Just as our salvation is assured through Jesus' one-time sacrifice for all.

[\(John 15:11\)](#) "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."

[Acts 13:52](#), "And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit."

❖ **Third, we need to stop whining, and complaining and grab onto God's joy.**

- Just like salvation, joy is a free and perfect gift from Him, and we must reach out and accept that gift.
- Grab onto it. Like a lifeline. Choose joy. Over bitterness, anger, and sorrow.

Make a decision to choose joy every day. No matter what.

Scriptures on Joy

[\(Luke 10:21\)](#) At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure."

[\(John 17:13\)](#) Jesus said: "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them."

[\(John 16:22-24\)](#) Jesus said: "Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete."

[\(1 Peter 1:8-9\)](#) Though you have not seen him (Jesus), you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Conclusion:

In life we're faced with insurmountable obstacles, mountains of medical bills, bankruptcy, and foreclosure, job loss and more. But you know what I have discovered? God's joy really is there. You can consider each trial joy; you can greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory even when you feel like you are face-first in the mud puddle. You can endure whatever circumstances are making you shake in your boots right now. If you have been saved through faith in Jesus Christ—you have all you need.

If You choose to rejoice in the midst of the test, then you are one step closer to victory in that trial. Remember it come down to a choice. Will you choose to have joy today?