
HOW TO HAVE A JOYFUL LIFE

John 15:11

INTRODUCTION

From the moment of birth, people are on a journey to be joyful! King Solomon personifies this in Ecclesiastes. He experiences pleasure (2:1); gains possessions (2:7); and acquires wealth (2:8); only to testify, "...and there was no profit under the sun" (2:11). Thankfully for Solomon, the story doesn't end there (2:26)!

I agree with G.K. Chesterton when he said, "Joy is the gigantic secret of the Christian."

I. WHAT DOES THE WORD "JOYFUL" MEAN?

- A. "Feeling, _____ or indicating joy." --*American Heritage Dictionary*
- B. "Joy is a _____ of the mind arising from the consideration of a _____, or assured possession of a future good." --*Unger's Bible Dictionary*
- C. The English preacher, Charles Spurgeon wrote, "Joy comes not from what we _____ but what we _____."
- D. The word "joy" is sometimes used of the _____ or occasion of _____ – Philippians 4:1; I Thessalonians 2:19,20

II. WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT A JOYFUL LIFE?

- A. A joyful life comes through the _____ – Psalm 5:11
 1. God the _____ – Isaiah 61:10; Habakkuk 3:18
 2. God the _____ – John 15:11; 17:13
 3. God the _____ – Acts 13:52; Galatians 5:22; I Thessalonians 1:6
- B. A joyful life comes through spending _____ in God's _____ – Psalm 16:11; 43:4
 - There is a _____ between happiness and joy:
 1. Happiness is an expression of our _____!
 2. Joy is an expression of our _____, which is found in God's presence!

Lesson 3: How to Have a Joyful Life

- C. A joyful life comes through God's _____ – Job 23:12; Jeremiah 15:16; Philippians 2:16
- D. A joyful life comes through _____ – Isaiah 56:7; John 16:24
- E. A joyful life comes through spiritual _____ – Psalm 27:6; 67:4; 95:1,2
- F. A joyful life comes through _____ – Hebrews 12:2,11; James 1:2; I Peter 1:6; 4:12,13

III. WHAT STEPS CAN WE TAKE TO PURSUE AND PRACTICE A JOYFUL LIFE?

- A. Confess any known _____ – Psalm 32:1-5,11; 51:1-3,12; I John 1:4,8,9
- B. Share your _____ – Psalm 126:5,6; Acts 8:4-8
- C. Depend on God for your _____ – Nehemiah 2:10; John 15:11; Philippians 4:4

“There is more joy in Jesus in twenty-four hours than there is in the world in 365 days. I have tried them both.”

--R.A. Torrey