

Study Guide
Indestructible Untouchable Joy (06/02/24)
Pastor Bobby Davis

Read the following verses:

Proverbs 15:13; Proverbs 18:14; Proverbs 17:22

A recent Gallup Pole found that unhappiness has been increasing *globally* over the last decade.

Do you agree with the above trend from Gallup?

Have you experienced this increase of unhappiness personally?

What do you believe is the cause of this rise in unhappiness?

Through Christ, we have access to joy that nothing can destroy.

FOUR PRINCIPLES OF JOY:

1. Power
2. Presence
3. Praise
4. Purpose

POWER – JOY CAN PROVIDE A POWER THAT NOTHING AND NO ONE CAN DEVOUR.

Nehemiah 8:10 (NKJV)

Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

Do you primarily seek to ENJOY life, or do you primarily seek to live life IN JOY?

What is the key difference between happiness and joy?

Why does seeking happiness always result in disappointment?

John 15:11 (NKJV)

These things I have spoken to you that My joy may remain in you and that your joy may be full.

Just like the peace that Jesus offers, His joy is not based on external circumstances (compared to worldly happiness). The Joy of the Lord is not based on external conditions, it is based on an internal position – that is why nothing can destroy it.

Read John 16:22; Romans 14:17; Luke 17:20-21.

Does your level of joy seem to increase and decrease based on what is happening around you?

Can you think of a time when you experienced hard times externally, but felt joy internally?

Pastor Bobby mentioned Fox's Book of Martyrs, which details accounts of martyrs throughout history – Christians who were tortured, ripped apart by animals, and burned at the stake. Many of these Christians went to their deaths still singing praises to Jesus Christ.

While we sometimes focus on the external, God often uses difficult circumstances to change our internal through His eternal power – strengthening our core.

Acts 1:4-6 (NLT)

Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, "Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?"

Do you tend to wait for God to fix the external before you allow Him to fix the internal (like the disciples in Acts 1:4-6)?

How is God trying to strengthen your internal core currently?

PRESENCE – JOY IS NOT THE ABSENCE OF PROBLEMS; IT IS THE PRESENCE OF GOD.

Acts 2:28 (NKJV)

You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.

Read Acts 16:16-40.

Paul and Silas did not pray their way out of the jail, they prayed God into the jail and the jail was not big enough to hold God.

The more we experience God's presence, the more His joy will be present.

Nehemiah 8:10 (NKJV)

Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

John 15:11 (NKJV)

These things I have spoken to you that My joy may remain in you and that your joy may be full.