

God's Path to Full Joy
Psalm 16:11
December 28, 2025
Sermon Notes

Main Points:

- 1) God's Path Brings Full Joy**
- 2) God's Presence Brings Full Joy**
- 3) God's Promises Bring Full Joy**

God's Path Brings Full Joy

Joy can be either a feeling/emotion or an action, and the Bible uses joy in both senses. The feeling of joy is not an emotion that can be directed on command (Psalm 137), however, joy as an action is something scripture commands regardless of one's circumstances. Joy in adverse circumstances is possible only as a fruit of the Holy Spirit, who is present in every Christian (Gal 5:22).

Happiness is circumstantial. Joy, however, is detached from life's circumstances.

The joy that Jesus came to bring us is from outside this world. Eternal joy is grounded in the unchanging nature of our Eternal God, which gives us hope today that our joy is not circumstantial but finds its fullness in the one who created and rules all things.

Psalm 16:11 offers us a glimpse of clarity for how we can experience and practice Godly joy in our lives.

God's Presence Brings Full Joy

Psalm 16 teaches that true, everlasting joy is dependent on God's presence in your life. God's promise of his presence brings great reward for those who are on the good and upright path.

These are the times when choosing the action of joy is hard, and even when we don't feel the emotion of joy, when we are on God's path there is protection and hope for those who take refuge in Him.

Right now, joy is available to us, that eternally increases.

Peterson writes, “*One of the most interesting and remarkable things Christians learn is that laughter does not exclude weeping. Christian joy is not an escape from sorrow. Pain and hardship still come, but they are unable to drive out the happiness of the redeemed. A common but futile strategy for achieving joy is eliminating things that hurt: Get rid of pain by numbing the nerve ends, get rid of insecurity by eliminating risks, get rid of disappointment by depersonalizing your relationships. And then try to lighten the boredom of such a life by buying joy in the form of vacations and entertainment. There isn’t a hint of that in Psalm 126... because laughter is a result of living in God’s great works.*”¹

Joy isn’t always what’s seen, but it can always be felt. Joy, gladness, delight etc. are feelings or attitudes of joyful happiness and cheerfulness this are a response to, or manifestation of, worship to God and experiencing his presence that transcends even of unfavorable circumstances

God’s Promises Bring Full Joy

When we’re walking in God’s Path, and living in His Presence, we have access to all the Promises that God so graciously gives us in his word.

Because joy is of God and not from ourselves, because joy is found in God’s presence and not in our current circumstance, because joy is what God gives and not what we create, we can hold on to God’s Path no matter what is going on around us because His Presence will lead us to find and experience fullness of joy in His promises.

Conclusion –

- 1) Am I pursuing worldly happiness or Godly joy?**
- 2) How do I need to be pursuing and enjoying God’s presence in my life each day?**
- 3) What past works of God have I experienced that will help me to rejoice in His Promises, no matter what circumstances I am in?**

¹ Eugene Peterson, “A Long Obedience in the Same Direction” (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000), 100.