

HOW TO HAVE REAL JOY WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?

Part 2

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But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23 NIV)

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT JOY.

1. JOY IS A CHOICE.

“Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. . .” (Philippians 3:1a, NLT)

“Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice!” (Philippians 4:4, NLT)

2. JOY IS A PRACTICE.

Practice:

- GRATITUDE

“Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy,” (Philippians 1:3–4, NLT)

- GIVING

“But I will rejoice even if I lose my life, pouring it out like a liquid offering to God, just like your faithful service is an offering to God. And I want all of you to share that joy. Yes, you should rejoice, and I will share your joy.” (Philippians 2:17–18, NLT)

- FILTERING

“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.” (Philippians 4:8, NIV84)

3. JOY IS A PERSPECTIVE.

Focus on:

- PURPOSE

“And I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters, that everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News. For everyone here, including the whole palace guard, knows that I am in chains because of Christ. And because of my imprisonment, most of the believers here have gained confidence and boldly speak God’s message without fear.” (Philippians 1:12–14, NLT)

“But that doesn’t matter. Whether their motives are false or genuine, the message about Christ is being preached either way, so I rejoice. And I will continue to rejoice.” (Philippians 1:18, NLT)

- PERSON

“Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ” (Philippians 3:8, NLT)

4. JOY GIVES YOU A VOICE.

“Do everything readily and cheerfully—no bickering, no second-guessing allowed! Go out into the world uncorrupted, a breath of fresh air in this squalid and polluted society. Provide people with a glimpse of good living and of the living God. Carry the light-giving Message into the night” (Philippians 2:14–15, The Message)

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:4–7, ESV)

GOOD NEIGHBORING IS CHARACTERIZED BY INTENTIONAL JOY

Last Thought:

Will You CHOOSE Joy Today?