

THE TAKE AWAY

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sunday, May 8, 2022
PREVAILING JOY

Message Summary:

This week in our brand new series on JOY, Pastor Raquel Patterson taught us how to have prevailing joy. There are circumstances and situations in life that you will face, that will require you to push into the place of prevailing joy that you have to stir up inside of yourself. There is an exceeding joy, a calm place, that only comes when you tap into the Spirit. There is a fruit of joy that is connected to life in Spirit that produces an abundance of joy. We can lean into Jesus and rest in Him, and tap into the blessings that are available to us in that place. But how do we do this? Hannah in the Old Testament gives us a practical example for how to do this. Hannah who could not conceive a child, and who was tormented by her rival, knew that she had to press into a deeper place with God. She got on her knees and prayed fervently to God for a child, ignoring all the taunts and temptations around her. She just pressed in, keeping her focus on what she wanted from God. She gave God all access to her life. She did not numb her pain with a vice. She gave all of herself to God as she poured out her heart. You cannot be not moved by any circumstance; you must press into God and say "Bless me, God!" Realize it is the power of God inside of you that will bring the change. That means you have to keep pressing in, unyielding until the breakthrough comes. Give God what you got, struggling or not, so God can blow on it and fill the gaps for you. Joy will bubble up out of that place that you build with God, where you are waiting for the manifestation but experiencing the overflow of His presence and joy!

Key Scriptures:

- [1 Samuel 2:1-2 NKJV] 1 And Hannah prayed and said: "My heart rejoices in the LORD; My horn is exalted in the LORD. I smile at my enemies, Because I rejoice in Your salvation. 2 "No one is holy like the LORD, For [there is] none besides You, Nor [is there] any rock like our God.
- [Romans 14:17 NKJV] 17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
- [John 15:9-11 NKJV] 9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 10 "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. 11 "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and [that] your joy may be full.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does "prevailing joy" mean to you?
2. How did Hannah in the Bible press into God?
3. How did God reward her persistence?
4. How can you tap into that place in the Holy Spirit that produces the fruit of joy?

Life Application:

This week as you study the key scriptures, consider what Pastor Raquel said, "There is a tangible marker when you pray, and you set a boundary line by which the enemy can't cross over. A hiding place where you tuck up under the Vine and pressing into Him." Where is the place in your own life where you can hide away with God and press into Him as you petition him for your needs? Where you can press in and remain until breakthrough comes? Joy is the divine reversal of circumstances as you press into God and wait on Him. Joy comes from the overflow of knowing God is enough! This week, find your place to lean in and wait on God. Don't give up and don't quick. God is with you! Stir up prevailing joy!