

Real Joy in a Joyless World

A Study Through 1 John 1:1–10 with Earl Goode at Calvary Baptist Church on 5/20/2026

Key Theme: True joy is found through knowing Jesus Christ, walking in fellowship with Him, and restoring fellowship through confession when sin breaks it.

1. Joy Comes Through Knowing Christ

Scripture: 1 John 1:1–4

“I saw Him, I heard Him, I touched Him. I know who He is.”

- John emphasized that Jesus truly came in the flesh. Real joy begins when we personally know Christ for who He is — Savior, Lord, Redeemer, and Sacrifice for sin.

2. Joy Comes Through Fellowship

Scripture: 1 John 1:5–7

“God wants us to have fellowship.”

- Christian joy grows through fellowship with God and with other believers. Fellowship is strengthened as we walk in the light and live honestly before God.

3. Joy Is Broken by Sin

Scripture: 1 John 1:6–10

“Occasionally, we choose darkness rather than light.”

- Sin does not remove a believer’s relationship with God, but it does interrupt fellowship. Walking in darkness robs us of joy and closeness with the Lord.

4. Joy Is Restored Through Confession

Scripture: 1 John 1:9

“Confession means agreeing with God.”

- God restores fellowship when we confess our sins honestly before Him. He is faithful to forgive and cleanse us completely through Jesus Christ.

Reflect This Week

- Who is Jesus personally to me?
- Is there anything hindering my fellowship with God?
- Am I walking in the light or hiding areas of darkness?
- Have I honestly confessed sin and agreed with God about it?

Closing Encouragement: Because of Jesus Christ, believers can live in forgiveness, fellowship, and fullness of joy.