

Kingdom Joy

Defining Christian Joy

A good feeling (emotion) in the soul produced by the Holy Spirit as he causes us to see the beauty of Christ. **John Piper**

- a deep rooted delight and sense of well being
- Happiness is based on 'happenings' or circumstances
- Christian Joy is produced by the Holy Spirit

Jesus was filled with Joy

You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy. **Hebrews 1:9**

- This passage speaks of Jesus

At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do. **Luke 10:21**

- In the Greek the picture painted is Jesus jumping up and spinning around

Joy of the Lord is our strength

Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength." **Nehemiah 8:10**

- God's joy in us provides a supernatural strength
- This joy and strength have a spiritual root and source that comes from the Lord himself

Joy not dependant on outward circumstance

Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, [18] yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Saviour. [19] The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to tread on the heights. **Habakkuk 3:17-19**

- Everything in the natural is desperately bad
- Yet the prophet Habakkuk is rejoices in the Lord
- Is joyful in God his Saviour
- The Lord strengthens
- He makes our feet like that of a deer
- Enabling a climbing on the heights

Joy is a fruit of the Spirit

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

- This is not something we produce by self will
- It's an emotion produced by the Spirit
- But the Spirit produces this in us as we look at Christ

Application - Commanded to rejoice

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! **Philippians 4:4**

- Rejoice = to joy or delight in
- We can choose to look to the Lord and be
- Our Joy is in the Lord
- It's the Joy of the Lord that is our strength

Trust in Him - He is the God of Hope

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Romans 15:13**

- We serve a God of hope
- He fills us with his joy and his peace
- Joy and peace well up and overflow into hope

Remain in his love - Gods love becomes the seed bed for Joy

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.

[10] If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. [11] I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. **John 15:9-11**

- Remain in his love
- Obey his commands
- Joy grows out of the same seed bed of love, peace and leads to hope

One thing life - Gaze upon his beauty

The Lord is my light and my salvation---whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life---of whom shall I be afraid? [2] When the wicked advance against me to devour me, it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall. [3] Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident. [4] One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple. [5] For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock. **Psalms 27:1-5**

Lord, I love the house where you live, the place where your glory dwells.
Psalm 26:8

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, [2] to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, [3] and provide for those who grieve in Zion---to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendour. [4] They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations. [5] Strangers will shepherd your flocks; foreigners will work your fields and vineyards. [6] And you will be called priests of the Lord, you will be named ministers of our God. You will feed on the wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast. [7] Instead of your shame you will receive a double portion, and instead of disgrace you will rejoice in your inheritance. And so you will inherit a double portion in your land, and everlasting joy will be yours. **Isaiah 61:1-7**