

Message Based Questions - 2/9/20

Be Different: Part 2 JOY

Verses: John 13:35, John 15:8, Galatians 5:22-23, James 1:2-4, Romans 8:18

ICEBREAKER: *Share a time when you experienced joy!*

How do you define joy?

How can joy be a catalyst for growth and for transforming culture?

Why does being joyful matter (see James 1:2-4)?

Discuss Pastor Omar's two ways to embrace joy:

- (1) filter what you're encountering through God's eternal perspective and
- (2) surrender everything that is zapping your joy to God.

What other ways have you found to embrace joy in all circumstances?

What is one thing you will do to apply this message and discussion?

PRAY as a group or individually during the week (from Pray the Word app):

Lord Jesus, You said that in this world I will have trouble, but that I should take heart, for You have overcome the world! Hallelujah Lord! You are greater than all of my fears. You are more powerful than all the powers of darkness that wage war against my soul O God! You alone are God! May Your name be great and proclaimed loudly in and through my life!

Forgive me Lord, for the times that I do lose heart, and I am overcome by the world. Instead Father, give me eyes to see that my momentary troubles are achieving for me an eternal glory that will far outweigh them all! And may I be found worshipping You in the midst of the obstacles, challenges and trials of this life. Remind me constantly, by Your Spirit, that I am not home yet. Empower me to persevere and endure hardships in my life for the sake of Your name and the formation of Your character in me.

I acknowledge that You know all my ways, and that You will bring me through the storms in my life, refining me as gold. May the trials I face teach me to obey Your Word and may my faith be proved genuine and result in praise, glory and honor to You, Jesus. I confess that You alone are God, there is no other, and I trust in Your name alone to save me. I rest in Your sovereignty and hope in Your Name as I wait for You. For You have searched me and You know me and everything about me - when I am still, when I am busy, where I go and what I do, You know all my ways and every thought I have. Even before I speak a single word, You know it. There isn't any place that I can go where You are not there.

Thank You Father, that even the darkness that seems to engulf me at times, is as light to You. I praise You and acknowledge that every day of my life was ordained for me by You. Therefore I submit myself to You alone and stand against the schemes of the enemy in Jesus Name. Amen.