



Series: Love First week 2

Sermon Title: Joy That Endures

Date: 4/14/2024

In Galatians 5, the apostle Paul writes a list of qualities that followers of Jesus can have when they surrender to the Holy Spirit –known as the fruit of the Spirit **Galatians 5:22-23**.

As we talk about Joy, let's establish an understanding of what biblical joy is.

Joy is the settled assurance that God is in control of all the details of my life, the confidence that, ultimately, He will set everything right in eternity, and the determined choice to respond to external circumstances with inner contentment.

Throughout scripture, we are told to be joyful. **Philippians 4:4**

Big Idea: Be known as a person of joy

To help you be known as a person of joy, we will answer 3 questions.

1. Where does lasting joy come from?

Any joy that will last and endure all of our circumstances has to be supernatural Joy. Jesus shared His joy **John 17:13, John 15:11**.

In John 10:10 Jesus said He came to give his followers life to the full - life with purpose and meaning and joy. Jesus is joyful! Crowds followed Him, and children ran to him. People wanted to be around Him. The natural outflowing of Jesus being God is that the fruit of the Spirit flows from Him, including joy. Jesus exuded joy, and He offers that Joy to anyone who wants it.

2. Is joy dependent on my circumstances?

Philippians 4:4 *Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice!*

When Paul wrote Philippians and his command to always be full of the joy of the Lord, he was sitting in a Roman prison.

God's word says that through everything, even very difficult situations, we can be filled with Joy in Christ. In fact, the bible doesn't just suggest it; it commands it. Jesus' brother James also wrote about joy when he wrote his letter to persecuted believers. **James 1:2,3**

In difficult situations we can make the choice to count it all joy. **Hebrews 12:**

You can even have joy while you are dealing with grief. **2 Corinthians 6:10.** Joy endures through all situations because your joy is linked to what you value. Whatever you delight in is where your joy is. If Jesus is the source of your joy, your joy never ends because Jesus never ends.

[3. How can I be someone who overflows with divine joy?](#)

Jesus said He will give you so much joy that there isn't room for anything else. **John 15:11.** There's no need to look elsewhere for joy because God gives you all you need to be satisfied. If you have God's joy and your health goes bad, you won't lose your joy because your health wasn't your source of joy to begin with. You were already filled up with God's complete and satisfactory joy – the joy of who He is and what you have a future with Him.

Let me offer some practical steps to receive this lasting complete joy.

1. Rejoice in your salvation.

If you have accepted Jesus as your savior you have a guaranteed spot in heaven. Whatever happens in this world you are guaranteed at the end of the day to end up in heaven. Through every trial and pain, keep in mind that this isn't the end. There is so much more, so much better coming our way. **Luke 10:20, Philippians 3:20**

2. Answered prayer

John 16:24

When we pray, God tells us we can see the results of God specifically moving in our lives, and it brings us joy. Not so much because we got something out of the prayer, but because we know that God, the creator of the universe, is listening to us and he loves us so much that he pays attention to our needs and concerns- even the little ones.

3. Salvation of others

Luke 15:32

One of the greatest joys in life is to introduce someone to Jesus. To lead them into a relationship with God and assist them in changing their destiny for all of eternity.

4. Return of Jesus-

The return of Jesus is a very powerful way for us to receive joy. It's the understanding that one day, Jesus will return and make the world right again. The return of Jesus is that instance where Jesus will come back to earth and take his rightful place as the perfect ruler of this world. It will usher in a time of peace that this world has been seeking out for so long. **Titus 2:13 NIV**

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **Is biblical joy different than worldly happiness? Explain why or why not.**
- **Why is joy a necessity for Christians to have? Does a Christian's level of joy reflect the depth of their relationship with God? Why or why not?**
- **Is there anything in your life that is keeping you from having joy? What is one thing you can do to have joy?**
- **Describe a time when you went through difficult circumstances and still had joy.**