

Real Joy

John 15:11 (NASB 2020) *These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.*

Joy: g5479. χαρά chara; from 5463; cheerfulness, i.e. calm delight: — gladness, x greatly, (x be exceeding) joy(-ful, -fully, -fulness, -ous).

Joy: the emotion evoked by well-being, success, or good fortune or by the prospect of possessing what one desires : DELIGHT

Mentioned over 64 times in the New Testament.

Happy: favored by luck or fortune. Happy hails from the Middle English word hap, meaning "good luck." Many of the early European words for happy actually referred to good luck, rather than a feeling of joy.

Romans 14:22 (NASB 2020) *The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is the one who does not condemn himself in what he approves.*

I. God wants us to live in Joy!

John 16:24 (NASB95) *Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full.*

Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT) *But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!*

Romans 14:17 (NLT) *For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

John 17:13 (AMP) *And now I am coming to You; I say these things while I am still in the world, so that My joy may be made full and complete and perfect in them [that they may experience My delight fulfilled in them, that My enjoyment may be perfected in their own souls, that they may have My gladness within them, filling their hearts].*

II. What Joy is Not!

True joy is not something we can create by our efforts; It's a result of Godly intervention!

Joy is not the result of getting what we think we need or want; we can't just go buy something and get joy!

***Ecclesiastes 2:1** *I said to myself, "Come now, let's give pleasure a try. Let's look for the 'good things' in life." But I found that this, too, was meaningless.*

Pleasure: Greek word "hedonism" which is the philosophy of self-centered pleasure seeking.

**** 2 Timothy 3:4 (NLT)** *They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God.*

Pleasure-seeking or Selfishness actually destroys Joy! Why? Because joy is a fruit of the Spirit!

**** John 15:5 (NASB 2020)** *I am the vine, you are the branches; the one who remains in Me, and I in him bears much fruit....*

Luke 8:14 *The thorny ground represents those who hear and accept the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life. And so they never grow into maturity.*

Pleasure-seeking enslaves you – Because you have to keep doing them to find pleasure!!!

Titus 3:3 *Once we, too, were foolish and disobedient. We were misled by others and became slaves to many wicked desires and evil pleasures. Our lives were full of evil and envy. We hated others, and they hated us.*

Pleasure-seeking leaves you dead inside!

Pleasure cannot hide your true lack of Joy

1 Timothy 5:6 (NLT) *But the widow who lives only for pleasure is spiritually dead even while she lives.*

This world did not create you so nothing in or of this world will ever satisfy you!

III. True joy is a result of our relationship with God!

John 15:5 (NLT) *Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in Me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from Me you can do nothing.*

Joy in a believer's life is directly proportional to his/her walk with the Lord!

Psalms 19:8 (NLT) The commandments of the LORD are right, bringing joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are clear, giving insight for living.

Nehemiah 8:10 (NLT) And Nehemiah continued, "Go and celebrate with a feast of rich foods and sweet drinks, and share gifts of food with people who have nothing prepared. This is a sacred day before our Lord. Don't be dejected and sad, for the joy of the LORD is your strength!"

Nehemiah 8:12 (NLT) So the people went away to eat and drink at a festive meal, to share gifts of food, and to celebrate with great joy because they had heard God's words and understood them.

Isaiah 9:3 (AMP) You [O Lord] have multiplied the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before You like the joy in harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil [of battle].

****Proverbs 2:9-11 (NLT)** Then you will understand what is right, just, and fair, and you will find the right way to go. For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will fill you with joy. Wise choices will watch over you. Understanding will keep you safe.