

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

The Journey to Joy

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
August 6, 2023



What is joy? How do circumstances affect joy, & where can we find true joy?

Psalm 126 A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem.

¹ When the Lord brought back his exiles to Jerusalem, it was like a dream!

² We were filled with laughter, and we sang for joy.

And the other nations said, "What amazing things the Lord has done for them."

³ Yes, the Lord has done amazing things for us! What joy!

⁴ Restore our fortunes, Lord, as streams renew the desert.

⁵ Those who plant in tears will harvest with shouts of joy.

⁶ They weep as they go to plant their seed, but they sing as they return with the harvest.

- **Joy is something God initiates.**

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

- **Joy is refined in hardship.**

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⁶ They weep as they go to plant their seed, but they sing as they return with the harvest.

"All suffering, all pain, all emptiness, all disappointment is seed: sow it in God and He will, finally bring a crop of joy from it." Eugene Peterson A Long Obedience in the Same Direction

- **Joy is perfected in Christ.**

Psalm 16:10-11 (ESV) "For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. ¹¹ You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore."

John 7:37-39 (NLT) On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, "Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! ³⁸ Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.'" ³⁹ (When he said "living water," he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him. But the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet entered into his glory.)

Hebrews 12:1-4 (NLT) Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. ² We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honour beside God's throne. ³ Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up. ⁴ After all, you have not yet given your lives in your struggle against sin.

Big Idea: Find joy in Jesus & hardship will make you better not bitter.



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
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Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

The Journey to Joy

#6 of 11 - August 6, 2023

- 1) Last week we looked at Psalm 125 and the issue of security. What action steps is the Lord asking you to take going forward?
- 2) Read Psalm 126. What is the **Context** for this passage? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible? What's the theme of this chapter, or passage? What's the historical and cultural context?
- 3) **Observation:** What "jumps out" in this passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions come up about the passage? What is the major theme in the passage?
- 4) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in this passage for us as we journey towards joy?
- 5) Read Psalm 16:10-11. What does this tell us about where joy is found?
- 6) Read Hebrews 12:1-4. What was the "joy set before Jesus" and how does this help us understand God's heart for us and motivate us to follow Christ?
- 7) **Application:** How is God speaking to you through this passage? In what way is God using your hardship to make you better?
- 8) What steps can you take today to find joy in your relationship with Jesus Christ?



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