



GRACE CHURCH

Message Notes

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!

Hebrews 12:2 NKJV — Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Joy = Greek word “chara” — cheerfulness; a calm delight

Happiness does not equal joy, but joy equals happiness

What is Joy?

1). Joy is an attitude

Matthew 13:44 NIV — The kingdom is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

“In his joy” = with an attitude of calm delight

2). Joy is internal, not external

Romans 15:13 NLT — I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Real joy begins in the heart and spirit, then manifests outwards

3). Joy is assurance that we are acceptable to God

Joy in Adverse Circumstances

1). Joy is not situational

Philippians 4:4 TLB — Always be full of joy; I say it again, rejoice!

2). The Bible instructs us to be joyful when problems come

James 1:2 NLT — Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy.

3). Jesus Christ, our example in joy

Hebrews 12:2 NLT — 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 honor beside God's throne.

Discussion Questions

1. When you think of the idea of “joy” what comes to your mind?
2. Without joy, our lives can get out of balance and everything seems off. Have you ever experienced a season where you were lacking joy, which affected the balance of your life and emotions?
3. What are you doing to manifest joy in your life?
4. Pastor Clint shared that true joy comes from knowing that we are accepted by God. Have you ever been through a time where you struggled with knowing if you were truly accepted by God?
5. The Bible instructs us to be joyful when problems come and situations in our life aren't positive. Are you choosing joy in the midst of these problems? If so, what does this look like for you?