



THE THING ABOUT JOY

STUDY QUESTIONS AND CONVERSATION GUIDE

We sing about joy, we talk about joy, and we even name our kids joy. God makes it clear in his word that we must always be joyful. The problem is, life is hard, and during those times, being joyful can be harder.

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WHEN SORROW AND JOY COLLIDE: BROADCAST DATE MARCH 16, 2022

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DESCRIPTION:

Is it a sin for Christians to feel sorrow? After all, the believer is commanded by God to rejoice always, and to consider trials as a source of pure joy! Others wonder at the absurdity of such a command, which leads us to our next question – how do respond to tragedy with joy?

QUESTIONS

- For those of us just joining in on this topic, let's review – what is joy? Is it different than happiness? Where does the joy come from? (One definition is from John Piper – “Joy is a good feeling in the soul, produced by the Holy Spirit, as he causes us to see the beauty of Christ in the word and in the world.”)
- At first glance, sorrow and joy are opposites – if we are commanded to have joy, there should be no room for sorrow. Yet Jesus himself was described as a “man of sorrows.” (Is. 53:3) Is this a contradiction?
- Why are there so many unhappy Christians? Are they living with a foot in both worlds? Are they sinning because they are miserable, or are they miserable because they are sinning?
- What if I'm a Christian who is constantly miserable? What can I do to live a life of joy? Can I be sorrowful and still have joy?

SPRINGBOARD VERSE

John 16:20 ESV Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy.