



# 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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### DESCRIPTION:

There are a lot of grumps in the world. Perhaps it's because there is too much bad news and too many problems without satisfactory answers. Christians are commanded – yes, commanded – to have joy. But what is it?

### QUESTIONS

- What is Christian joy, and how does it differ from the world's definition?
- John Piper in his 2015 article [How Do You Define Joy?](#) said this: "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." Would you agree with this definition? Why or why not? Would you add anything to this?
- It is said that joy and happiness are synonymous. Do you agree? Why or why not? If not, what are the differences? Is it possible to be joyful without being happy?
- If we use this definition, does it mean that we can't control whether we have joy because it's produced by the Holy Spirit?
- Martyn Lloyd-Jones stated, "in any definition we may give of New Testament joy, is that we do not go to a dictionary; we go to the New Testament instead." Let's discuss where we can find a definition of joy in the New Testament.
- What are some indicators of joy in our lives? In other words, how can we know if we have joy? If I don't have joy, what must I do to get it?

### SPRINGBOARD VERSE

Psalm 16:11 ESV You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore