



## God With Us: JOY

*John 16:22, Psalm 16:11*

What is your current state? Is your life filled with fear, hate, sorrow and conflict? What is God's desired future for you? Do you know God desires for you to live a life filled with hope, love, joy and peace? What action steps are necessary for you to live in God's desired future for you? Trust the Lord with all your heart. Confess your sins. Surrender to Jesus. The greatest joy of all is that God is with you. Jesus came to show you the pathway to joy. Jesus is Immanuel, God with us.

*As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. John 15:9-11*

*So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. John 16:22*

### Have You Lost Your Joy?

*So also you have sorrow now, John 16:22*

If you can lose your joy, on what is your joy based?

If your joy is based on external things, those things change and can be taken away from you!

Why not base your joy on eternal things, which never change and cannot be taken away from you!

Joy based on anything other than our creator/savior is temporary and is based on feelings that can come and go.

Joy based on our creator/savior God is perpetual and not based on externals or feelings but on the facts and promises of scripture and the hope in Jesus our Victor!

There is a time to be sorrowful. But life without joy isn't worth living.

- **Start Finding Joy by Trusting Jesus.**

*So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, John 16:22*

*19 Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, 'A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me'? 20 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. John 16:19-20*

- **Trust Jesus**

- **JOY** is the Fruit of REST
- Slow Down

“God created us to live with certain rhythms. He made day and night, a season to plant and a season to harvest, a time to work and a time to rest. When He told us to take a Sabbath just like He did, He wasn’t making up rules to try to steal our joy. He knew the fruit of rest was joy.” - Bob Goff (*Live in Grace, Walk in Love*)

*Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. Exodus 20:8-11*

### **Stay Joyful for all Eternity.**

*So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. John 16:22*

At First Baptist Gulfport, we value **Joy-Filled Unity.**

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

*Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. John 15:9-11*

*Shout for joy to God, all the earth; Psalm 66:1*

## **Life Application**

1. When was the last time you had true and pure Joy? Share your story.
2. When was the last time you lost your Joy? What were the circumstances?
3. Is your Joy based on external things or the eternal promises of God? Why?
4. Name a promise of God that gives you Joy.
5. When was the last time you experienced the fullness of Joy in the presence of the Lord?
6. What changes would you make in your habits to experience the fullness of Joy in the presence of the Lord regularly?
7. What changes could you make in your thinking to experience the fullness of Joy in the presence of the Lord?