

**Series:** IMPROVE: Developing Traits for Peaceful Living

**Title:** *Joy: The Ability To See God Beyond Suffering.*

**Text:** Acts 16:19-32

**Introduction:**



**Memory Verse**

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22-23)

**Big Idea** – Joy can be \_\_\_\_\_ in all situations.

**Let’s look at five situations you where I can experience joy.**

**I) Joy can be experienced during times of religious and racial \_\_\_\_\_.**

*“These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city, and teach customs, which are not lawful for us to receive, neither to observe, being Romans.”* (Acts 16:20-21)

**II) Joy can be experienced during times of \_\_\_\_\_.**

*“And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them. And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.”* (Acts 16:22-24)

**III) Joy can be experienced during times of \_\_\_\_\_.**

*“And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.”* (Acts 16:25)

IV) Joy can be experienced during times of \_\_\_\_\_.

*And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? (Acts 16:26-30)*

V) Joy can be experienced during the time of \_\_\_\_\_.

*"And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house." (Acts 16:31-34)*

**Conclusion:**

The experience of Joy is not determined by what is \_\_\_\_\_ you but by what is \_\_\_\_\_ you.

**Next Steps:**

- Memorize Galatians 5:22-23
- Become a Follower of Jesus
- Commit to seeing God beyond your sufferings.

**IMPROVE Sermon Series**  
***Love: The Ability to Serve Others***

Join us next week, Sunday, June 18 @ 11am as we continue our new preaching series "IMPROVE" with the message *Peace: The Ability to Trust God in Spite of Trials.*

