

Rich Humphrey

## SESSION 3 | Our Weapons In The Fight for Joy

### I. INTRODUCTION

### II. ARE YOU IN A WAR FOOTING?

#### **We Are Offered the Fullness of Joy**

"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**

"But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy, and spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may exult in you."

**Psalm 5:11**

"These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."

**John 15:11**

#### **God Is Most Glorified When We Are Most Satisfied In Him**

"God is glorified not only by His glory's being seen, but by its being rejoiced in. When those that see it delight in it, God is more glorified than if they only see it."

**Jonathan Edwards**

### **We Reject the Fountain of Life and Build Broken Cisterns**

Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the Lord, for my people have committed two evils they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.

**Jeremiah 2:12-14**

### **Finding Our Ultimate Joy In Anything Other Than God Is Evil**

If you devote your whole life to getting all your satisfaction from anti-God things and non-God things... you're blackballing God... You're saying, "You don't count. You're just not adequate. You can't satisfy my life." It's a horrible thing to say about God. That's evil.

**John Piper**

## **III. WIELDING THE WORD IN THE FIGHT FOR JOY**

"The reason [the Word] is so critical in the fight for joy is that God himself is the ultimate object of our enjoyment. But God "reveals himself... by the word." Oh, how precious is the Bible! Here is where we see God most clearly and most surely. The Holy Spirit opens our eyes and grants us to see the beauty of Christ. If there were no Bible, there would be no lasting joy." -

**John Piper**

"Now... I would give a few hints to any younger fellow-believers as to the way in which to keep up spiritual enjoyment. It is absolutely needful... we should read regularly through the Scriptures, consecutively, and not pick out here and there a chapter. If we do, we remain spiritual dwarfs. I tell you so affectionately. For the first four years after my conversion, I made no progress, because I neglected the Bible. But when I regularly read on through the whole with reference to my own heart and soul, I directly made progress. Then my peace and joy continued more and more. Now, I have been doing this for 47 years, I have read through the Bible about 100 times, and I always find it fresh when I begin again. Thus, my peace and joy have increased more and more."

George Mueller

**A. Have Plan**

Time:

Place:

Plan:

**B. Memorization**

The joy-producing effects of memorizing Scripture and having it in my head and my heart are incalculable. The world and its God-ignoring, all-embracing secularism is pervasive. It invades my mind every day. What hope is there to have a mind filled with Christ except to have a mind filled with His Word? I know of no alternative.

John Piper

If I had to choose between all the disciplines of the spiritual life, I would choose Bible memorization because it is a fundamental way of filling our mind with what it needs.

Dallas Willard

**Helpful Apps:**

The Verse Locker

The Bible Memory App

**C. Meditation**

Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day. Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies for it is ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation.

**Psalms 119:97-99**

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**Philippians 4:6,7**

It is blessed to eat into the very soul of the Bible until at last, you come to talk in Scriptural language, your spirit is flavored with the words of the Lord, so that your blood is Bibline and the very essence of the Bible flows from you."

**Charles Spurgeon**

## **IV. WIELDING THE WORLD IN THE FIGHT FOR JOY**

"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world."

**Psalms 19:1-4**

For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

**Psalms 92:4**

### **We Must Sanctify The Joy We Experience From The World**

I was standing today in a dark woodshed. The sun was shining outside and through the crack at the top of the door, there came a sunbeam. From where I stood, that beam of light, with the specks of dust floating in it, was the most striking thing in the place. Everything else was almost pitch black. I was seeing the beam, not seeing things by it. Then I moved so that the beam fell on my eyes. Instantly, the whole previous picture vanished. I saw no toolshed, and (above all) no beam. Instead I saw, framed in the

irregular cranny at the top of the door, green leaves moving on the branches of a tree outside and beyond that 90-odd million miles away, the sun. Looking along the beam and looking at the beam are very different experiences.

**C.S. Lewis**

What is most significant about this... is that our gratitude is ultimately rooted in what God is, not in what He gives. The good gifts, like sex and food, are occasions for the gladness of gratitude. But they are not the ultimate focus of our joy. The sensation of pleasure runs up the beam of God's generosity until it stops with the goodness of God Himself.

**John Piper**

For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made.

**Romans 1:18**

The Word of God tells us that we are sinners and do not deserve anything but the wrath of God, and therefore, the joy of seeing the glory of God in and through the pleasures of sex and food is an absolutely free gift bought with the blood of Jesus Christ.

**John Piper**

## **V. CONCLUSION**

I saw more clearly than ever, that the first great and primary business to which I ought to attend to every day was to have my soul happy in the Lord.

**George Mueller**

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