

Encounter Church
Sunday March 9, 2025

Restore
Restoring Joy

Isaiah 61:1-4- “The Spirit of God, the Master, is on me because God anointed me. He sent me to preach good news to the poor, heal the heartbroken, Announce freedom to all captives, pardon all prisoners. God sent me to announce the year of his grace— a celebration of God’s destruction of our enemies— and to comfort all who mourn, To care for the needs of all who mourn in Zion, give them bouquets of roses instead of ashes, Messages of joy instead of news of doom, a praising heart instead of a languid spirit. Rename them “Oaks of Righteousness” planted by God to display his glory. They’ll rebuild the old ruins, raise a new city out of the wreckage. They’ll start over on the ruined cities, take the rubble left behind and make it new.”

Isaiah 61:10- “I will sing for joy in God, explode in praise from deep in my soul! He dressed me up in a suit of salvation, he outfitted me in a robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom who puts on a tuxedo and a bride a jeweled tiara.”

Isaiah 58:11-12- “The Lord will guide you continually, giving you water when you are dry and restoring your strength. You will be like a well-watered garden, like an ever-flowing spring. Some of you will rebuild the deserted ruins of your cities. Then you will be known as a rebuilder of walls and a restorer of homes.”

Restoring Joy

When was the last time you felt genuine joy in your life?

Romans 14:17 - “For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”

WHAT ARE SOME ENEMIES OF JOY

1. Comparing

Galatians 6:4 - “Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won’t need to compare yourself to anyone else.”

When comparing you’ll always feel inferior to those who have more and superior to those who have less!

Truth be told you cannot be envious and joyful at the same time.

COMPARING IS AN ENEMY OF JOY!

2. Discontentment

Discontent- not pleased or satisfied, a grievance

Hebrews 13:5 “Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

1 Timothy 6:6)- “But godliness with contentment is great gain.”

Discontentment will bring you to burnout and rob you of joy! Selfishness is never satisfied!

DISCONTENTMENT IS AN ENEMY OF JOY

3. Being Ungrateful

When I compare and become discontent then I become ungrateful about what I have!

Psalms 107:22 - “Let them sacrifice thank offerings and tell of His works with songs of joy.”

1 Thessalonians 3:9 - “How we thank God for you! Because of you we have great joy as we enter God’s presence.”

Being ungrateful for what God has given you today will rob you of God’s joy for today.

BEING UNGRATEFUL IS AN ENEMY OF JOY

4. Unforgiveness

Ephesians 4:31-32- “Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.”

A Christian who won’t forgive others is bad advertisement for a God who has forgiven them!

UNFORGIVENESS IS AN ENEMY OF JOY

5. Unanswered Questions

Questions like.....GOD WHY? WHY DID THIS HAPPEN? I DON’T UNDERSTAND!

TWO VERSES THAT WILL HELP US WITH THIS LAST POINT

Proverbs 3:5,6 - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

James 1:2-4 - "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

HOW DO I RECOVER JOY?

You could say, "well when I stop comparing and when I'm content, thankful, forgiving others and trusting God!"

Psalms 16:11 - "You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasure at your right hand."

1 Chronicles 16:27 - "Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and joy are in his dwelling place."

In John 15:1-11, 11 times the word "REMAIN" is used in these scriptures.

John 15:11 "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full."

HERE'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I REMAIN IN HIS PRESENCE

Psalms 30:11,12 - "You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent. Lord my God, I will praise you forever."

Let's Pray!

The Holy Spirit is restoring JOY today!