

The Joy of Serving God

Scripture Reading: **1 Peter 1:5-9**

Introduction:

1. Isn't it a real JOY to be able to serve our God?

A. Consider the following scriptures:

Rom 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Phil 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

2. JOY Defined: "a very glad feeling; happiness; delight; rejoice; gladden".

A. The New Testament use of "joy" shows it to be a consistent mark of the individual Christian.

B. It is not simply an emotion (clapping of hands, artificial grins, etc.). It is a quality that naturally expresses itself grounded in God and derived from His Word.

Ps 16:11 You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Ps 35:9 And my soul shall be joyful in the LORD; it shall rejoice in His salvation.

Rom 5:11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

3. The joy experienced by those that serve God is wholesome, permanent, and occupies itself with the object of its source - which is God.

A. It is not a byproduct.

B. Joy characterizes the Christian's life on earth.
(Scripture Reading)

C. Joy only based on human experience and the temporal things is disappointing.

1) When joy is realized within us in terms of Christ, we are filled with real and lasting satisfaction.

4. So, what is the object of this lesson?

A. To demonstrate that in an age of unrest, uncertainty and turmoil, Christians have ample reason for victorious optimism.

1) Christians are and should be a happy people.

Ps 144:15 **Happy** are the people who are in such a state; **happy** are the people whose God is the LORD!

2) No matter what is going on around us, Christians can rejoice in earnest of everlasting joy.

The Naturalness of Joy Is to Be Cultivated in the Life of the Christian

1. Joy marked the life of the early church.

Acts 2:46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,

Acts 8:5, 8 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. **8** And there was great joy in that city.

Acts 13:52 And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

2. In the epistles, joy is found through:

A. Progression in the faith.

Phil 2:1-2 Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

B. In suffering and in sorrow.

Col 1:24 I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church,

Heb 10:34 for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven.

1 Pet 4:13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

C. Joy is a fruit of the spirit.

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

3. When one's right in the sight of God one can't help but be happy!

2 Tim 1:12 For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for **I know whom I have believed** and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

As a result, we gain this attitude:

Rom 8:28 And we know that **all things work together for good** to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

4. Joy is seen when going through trials and persecutions.

James 1:2 My brethren, **count it all joy** when you fall into various trials,

2 Cor 7:4 Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my boasting on your behalf. I am filled with comfort. I am **exceedingly joyful** in all our tribulation.

Jesus said;

Matt 5:10-12 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. **Rejoice and be exceedingly glad**, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

2 Cor 6:10 as sorrowful, **yet always rejoicing**; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

3. In prosperity or adversity, health or sickness, among friends or enemies, we should be so happy and thankful for so many privileges and blessings in Jesus.

4. There are troubles all around us, in the home, the church, the community, but still we should not murmur or dwell in self-pity, but rather we should exhibit great joy in the Lord.

Conclusion

1. We should have joy in serving the Lord our God in all realms of life, for we are always in His presence and under His watchful eye.
2. It extends to all eternity.
3. The world cannot give it, or take it away — it is ours!
4. Are you in Christ? (there is no greater joy!)
 - A. Galatians 3:26-27
1 Peter 3:21
 - 1) Rejoice in the loving kindness of the Lord!

Invitation:

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