

The Basics of Joy

I. Introduction

- A. The man Christ Jesus taught us a new way to experience life that has joy at its center.
- B. We should expect our church services to be a very joyful time.
- C. The Bible speaks of joy over 165 times in 155 separate verses. The Bible speaks of sorrow only 70 times in 65 verses.
- D. There are many different reasons for going to church. One reason is to rejoice together.

II. Shouting or Sighing?

- A. Let us shout joyfully to Him

Psalm 95:1-2 Come, let's sing for joy to the Lord. Let's shout praises to the Rock who saves us. ²Let's come to him with thanksgiving. Let's sing songs to him,

- B. Happy worshiper? That's far too weak. Joyful worshipers is more correct.
- C. We experience happiness because of our circumstances. But joy is because of a deep, settled relationship with God.
- D. David pled with God, "Make me to hear sounds of joy and gladness...Give me back the joy of your salvation..."

Psalm 51:8,12 Make me hear sounds of joy and gladness; let the bones you crushed be happy again.

¹² Give me back the joy of your salvation. Keep me strong by giving me a willing spirit.

- E. There are different levels of joy. There are different reasons for joy. There are many ways we can express that joy.
- F. Sometimes our happy emotions can feel stuck inside us. Shouting releases those happy emotions.

III. The difference between Joy and Sorrow

- A. All of us have experienced hurts, pain, and sorrow. But we also know our God.
- B. Jesus told us that we can be full of joy.

John 15:11 I have told you these things so that you can have the same joy I have and so that your joy will be the fullest possible joy.

- C. Many examples of joy in the Bible came when people are in bad circumstances.
- D. We cannot always respond with happiness, but we can respond with joy.
- E. God has provided divine joy for His children.

IV. Joy in Relationship

- A. **Psalm 43:3-4** Send me your light and truth to guide me. Let them lead me to your holy mountain, to where you live. ⁴Then I will go to the altar of God, to God who is my joy and happiness. I will praise you with a harp, God, my God.
- B. "...joy in the Holy Spirit" is the third definition of the kingdom of God.

Romans 14:17 In the kingdom of God, eating and drinking are not important. The important things are living right with God, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.

- C. This joy of the Spirit is listed as the second part of the fruit of the Spirit that will grow and develop in the believers' hearts.
- D. Charles Spurgeon said, "There is more in God to cheer you than in your circumstances to depress you."
- E. God said we should shout for joy.

Isaiah 65:14 My servants will shout for joy because of the goodness of their hearts, but you evil people will cry, because you will be sad. You will cry loudly, because your spirits will be broken.

V. Where does Joy come from?

- A. NOT because Jesus was born in Bethlehem. We have joy because Jesus has been born in our lives.
- B. God is the center of all our joys.
- C. God is pleased when we have joy.
- D. Rejoicing in the Lord means we are joyful:
 1. In His name
 2. In His work
 3. In His Word
 4. In His kingdom
 5. In His church
- E. Being joyful in the Lord is one of the most powerful emotions we can experience.

VI. Joy in Worship

- A. When David brought the ark of the covenant back to Jerusalem, he set up a tent to protect it. And David joyfully worshiped God before it.
- B. When the ark was placed in its new home in Jerusalem, David assigned singers and instrumentalists to minister musically unto the Lord twenty-four hours a day.
- C. Joy is a privilege of worship. When we have fellowship with God we will also have great joy.
- D. According to Acts 15:15-17: The gentiles could not worship God in the Tabernacle that Moses made in the wilderness. The gentiles could not worship God in the temple Solomon built. The gentiles have been invited in to worship God in the TABERNACLE OF DAVID which is Jesus Christ.
- E. The Book of Revelation shows us what worship in Heaven will be like. We will be overwhelmed! We will be singing, shouting, waving palm branches, and loud shouts of joy and excitement.

Heaven's worship is not mournful; it is joyful!