

THE FUN VIRTUE? JOY

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, JOY, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Joy—"as the positive confidence I possess by knowing and trusting God regardless of the circumstances." (Outragious, Contagious Joy, Ed Young, 19)

Happiness Vs. Joy

"Happiness is a state of mind, while joy is a mind-set.

Happiness comes and goes, while joy can be constant.

Happiness is dependent, while joy is independent.

Happiness is conditional, while joy is unconditional." (Think Act Believe Like Jesus, Randy Frazee, 170)

I. _____ IS OUR JOY

Psalms 43:4 Then I will go to the altar of God,
to God, my joy and my delight.
I will praise you with the lyre,
O God, my God.

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

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

Luke 10:20 ²⁰ However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

"Joy is a choice. It's a matter of attitude that stems from one's confidence in God—that He is at work, that He is in full control, that He is in midst of whatever has happened, is happening and will happen. Either we fix our minds on that and determine to laugh again, or we wail and whine our way through life. We determine which way we will go." --Chuck Swindoll

REMEMBER WHAT GOD HAD DONE FOR YOU.

"We tend to forget that happiness doesn't come as a result of getting something we don't have, but rather of recognizing and appreciating what we do have."—Frederick Koening

II. JOY COMES FROM _____

Matthew 13:44 The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his JOY went and sold all he had and bought that field.

Luke 1:44 As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

Matthew 28:8 So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with JOY, and ran to tell his disciples.

III. JOY COMES FROM RELATIONSHIPS WITH _____

Philippians 4:1 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!

Philemon 1:6-7 I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ.
² Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.

Romans 16:19 Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I rejoice because of you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil.

IV. JOY COMES FROM _____ OF THE FUTURE

John 16:20-24 Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy.²¹ A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world.²² So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.²³ In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.²⁴ Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

Hebrews 12:2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

CONCLUSION: "And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years." --Abraham Lincoln