

True Joy

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study

John 17:11-13

The pursuit of happiness? What does that mean to us? Is it more rightly understood to be the pursuit of satisfaction? What can I obtain in this life that will satisfy my deepest longings? How can I be happy, or, better yet, satisfied?

A better understanding of deep happiness or even deeper satisfaction is joy. But what is joy? Defined, joy is happiness and cheerfulness. But it has deeper roots than a surface-level emotion. Joy is present in sorrow. Amid testing, even torment, for the believer abiding in Christ, joy is present. In fact, James says, “*Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds.*”

Where does this “joy” come from?

I. Joy comes from ‘these things’ (John 17:13)

- A. **John 15:11**, *These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.*
 - 1. Clean (**John 15:1-3**)
 - 2. Abide (**John 15:4**)
 - 3. Bear (**John 15:5-6**)
 - 4. Pray (**John 15:7**)
 - 5. Glorify (**John 15:8**)
 - 6. Love (**John 15:9**)
 - 7. Obey (**John 15:10**)
- B. **John 16:33**, *I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”*
 - 1. For every future tribulation, there is peace!
 - 2. The illustrations
 - a) The murder of the Lord turns from sorrow to joy! (**John 16:19-20**)
 - b) The anguish of childbirth is swallowed by the presence of new life (**John 16:21**)
 - c) The absence of the Lord is comforted by His promise (**John 16:22**)
- C. **John 17:13**, *But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.*
 - 1. Jesus has revealed the character of God (His name) to His disciples (**John 17:6**)
 - 2. Jesus has given the words of the Father (**John 17:8**)
 - 3. Jesus has promised them security (unity) in Him (**John 17:11-12**)

II. Principles of Joy (Comingling with gratitude, peace, and joy)

Colossians 3:15, *And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. **John 14:27**, *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.**

- A. Joy is for today, not just eternity.
 - 1. Anger can overtake our joy in this present world of sin.
 - 2. Melancholy can rob us of joy when we consider the future for our generations.
 - 3. Cynicism can smother the flames of joy when we view our failures.
- B. Joy is meant for today, regardless of circumstance.
 - 1. **John 16:23–24**, *In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. **24** Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.*
 - 2. **John 15:11**, *These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.*