

True Joy (Part 2)

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. Joy is independent of trials, problems, circumstances, and the world.
 - 1. **Hebrews 12:2**, *Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*
 - 2. **Philippians 4:7** *And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard {garrison, protection, keep, station troops} your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*
 - a) A joy that is dependent on circumstance is no joy, it is a fleeting emotion.
 - b) True joy is present despite all hell breaking loose (**John 17:14-16**)
 - 3. **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.

4. **John 15:11**, *These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.*

III. What is the Foundation Joy?

- A. The foundation of our joy is found in the sovereignty, authority, and power of God. (**Psalm 115:3**, *Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.*)
1. **Isaiah 46:9–10**, *“For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, 10 declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,’*
 2. **Daniel 4:34–35**, *For his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; 35 all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, “What have you done?”*
- B. His sovereignty covers every calamity we face
1. Joseph’s conclusion: **Genesis 50:20**, *As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.*
 2. Job’s conclusion (**Job 42:2**, *“I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.*
 3. Jeremiah’s conclusion
 - a) His physical eyes: **Lamentations 2:11**, *My eyes are spent with weeping; my stomach churns; my bile is poured out to the ground because of the destruction of the daughter of my people, because infants and babies faint in the streets of the city.*
 - b) His spiritual eyes: **Lamentations 3:37–38**, *Who has spoken and it came to pass, unless the Lord has commanded it? 38 Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that good and bad come?*
 4. Amos’ conclusion (**Amos 3:6**, *Is a trumpet blown in a city, and the people are not afraid? Does disaster come to a city, unless the Lord has done it?)*
 5. The clearest example that moral evil fits into the design of God is the crucifixion of the Son of God
 - a) Man’s responsibility (Judas and others) for the murder, **Acts 2:23** *This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.*
 6. In the last days: **Revelation 17:13–14, 17**, *These are of one mind, and they hand over their power and authority to the beast. 14 They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.” 17 for God has put it into their hearts to carry out his purpose by being of one mind and handing over their royal power to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.*
 7. **Proverbs 21:1**, *The king’s heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will. Ezra 6:22*, *For the Lord had made them joyful and had turned the heart of the king of Assyria to them, so that he aided them in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel.*

IV. How to live in joy

- A. Avoid focusing on how you feel; instead, concentrate on “these things.”
1. **Job 23:14**, *For he will complete what he appoints for me, and many such things are in his mind.*
 2. It is not “why” God has allowed calamity or to find a reason.
 3. It is “Who” God is in allowing calamity in our lives.
- B. Avoid concentrating on the things of this world and instead dwell on the things above.
1. Circumstances, People, and problems instead focus on Scripture
 2. **Psalm 37:4**, *“Delight yourself in the Lord.”*
 3. **Psalm 97:12**, *“Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous.”*
 4. **Matt 5:12**, *“Rejoice and be exceeding glad.”*
 5. **Philippians 4:4**, *Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say, Rejoice.”*
- C. Avoid the things that cause you to break fellowship with God. Instead,
1. Meditate on His Word.
 2. Walk in His Spirit.
 3. Pray without ceasing.