



- We can choose our **attitude** in all circumstances.

2 ...when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. 3 For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. 4 So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing. James 1:2-4 (NLT)

25 Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God,... Acts 16:25 (NLT)

- Our **attitude** is determined by what we do in **difficult** times.

Definition of God's Joy:

Joy is the elevation of our soul, produced by the Holy Spirit, that changes our perspective and allows us to anticipate and see God's activity".

The Difference between Happiness and Joy:

- Happiness is **natural**.
- Joy is **supernatural**.
- Happiness is based on **conditions**.
- Joy is based on the person of **Christ**.

11 I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! John 15:11 (NLT)

22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,... Galatians 5:22 (NLT)

- Joy is what **Jesus** wants you to **live** with.

4 Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! Philippians 4:4 (NLT)

When we don't have joy:

- We become **religious**.
- We become **angry**.
- We **quit**.

10 ... the joy of the LORD is your strength!" Nehemiah 8:10 (NLT)

Because of joy:

- We live with an **appreciation** for others.

3 Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. 4 Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, 5 for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. Philippians 1:3-5 (NLT)

- We believe that God is **working** in people.

6 And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns. Philippians 1:6 (NLT)

- We look for the blessing in **adversity**.

13 For everyone here, including the whole palace guard, knows that I am in chains because of Christ. 14 And because of my imprisonment, most of the believers here have gained confidence and boldly speak God's message without fear. Philippians 1:13-14 (NLT)

How Paul chose joy:

- Stop asking **why**.

8 "My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the LORD. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. 9 For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:8-9 (NLT)

12 ...what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. Philippians 1:12 (NIV)

- Start asking **what**.

13 As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. 14 And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear. Philippians 1:13-14 (NIV)

28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28 (NIV)

- Refocus on your **source**.

25 Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening.

26 Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors immediately flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off! Acts 16:25-26 (NLT)



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Have Questions? Text them to: (559)-464-5754

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Why?
- How do you feel about the statement: "Our attitude is determined by what we do in difficult times."?
- Read the definition of God's joy... Talk about what the definition means. How is it different than happiness?
- Do you really think it's important for Christ follower's to have God's joy? Why? Do you experience this joy in your life?
- Can you name some other things we experience when we don't have joy?
- Do you find that joy allows you to live with a greater appreciation for others? Why?
- Does joy help you believe that God is working in others, though you may not see it? Explain.
- How does joy help us find blessings in adversity?
- When you encounter difficulties do you often ask the "why" questions? What is the danger of asking the "why" questions?
- Do you currently ask the "what" questions? (What is God doing? What is God trying to teach me, etc.) How do these questions tap into a deeper source of strength?
- Like Paul praying in prison, what are some ways we can refocus on God during difficulties?

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