



The Difference between Happiness and Joy:

- Happiness **comes** and **goes**.
- Joy is something **God gives**.
- Happiness is based on **conditions**.
- Joy is based on the person of **Christ**.

Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. 1 Peter 1:8-9 (NIV)

- Joy is produced by the **Holy Spirit**.
- 22 ...the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, **joy**, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control... Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)
- 10 ...Don't be dejected and sad, **the joy of the Lord is our strength**... Nehemiah 8:10 (NLT)

If we don't have joy we will not have the **strength** we need in life to make it through difficulties.

- Joy **develops** in us as we spend **time** with God.
- 11 ...in your presence there is fullness of joy;.. Psalm 16:11 (ESV)

The amount of trust we have **in** God determines the Joy we experience **from** God.

When we have God's 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 tell others how they **bless** us.

7 You have a special place in my heart. So it is only natural for me to feel the way I do. All of you have helped in the work that God has given me, as I defend the good news and tell about it here in jail. Philippians 1:7 (CEV)

- We look for the blessing in **adversity**.
- 12 I want to report to you, friends, that my imprisonment here has had the opposite of its intended effect. Instead of being squelched, the Message has actually prospered. Philippians 1:12 (MSG)

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)

2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds... James 1:2 (ESV)

- We refuse to let **others** control our **attitude**.
- 17 Those others do not have pure motives as they preach about Christ. They preach with selfish ambition, not sincerely, intending to make my chains more painful to me. 18 But that doesn't matter. Whether their motives are false or genuine, the message about Christ is being preached either way, so I rejoice. And I will continue to rejoice. Philippians 1:17-18 (NLT)

- We trust God to **work** things out.
- 19 ...Because I know how it's going to turn out. Through your faithful prayers and the generous response of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, **everything he wants to do in and through me will be done**. Philippians 1:19 (MSG)

- We know why we **live**.
- 21 For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better. Philippians 1:21 (NLT)

For me, living means living for _____.



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

Questions for 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? Explain why?
- How important is it to have joy for what we are going through in our world today?
- Do you think people pursue happiness more than joy? Why?
- Talk through the points under the sub-heading: "The differences between happiness and joy."
- How does God's joy give us strength in life?
- Why do you think joy develops in us as we spend time with God?
- How does joy enable us to live with an appreciation for others? Do you find that in your life?
- Do you find that joy causes you to believe that God is working in others? Explain.
- Why does God's joy lead us to tell others how they bless us? Have you experienced that personally in your life?
- How does joy allow us to see the blessings in adversity?
- Do you find that joy causes you to have greater trust that God is going to work things out in your life?
- What are some of the things people live for? Why does it fail to provide them joy?
- How does knowing why we live bring us joy?
- What is one way you will nurture joy in your life the week?

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