



- A God centered life develops a **joy** filled life.

Definition: Joy is an elation and contentment of our soul based on our personal relationship with Jesus and the salvation we have in Him.

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)

2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think... Romans 12:2 (NLT)

Don't love the world and what it offers. Those who love the world don't have the Father's love in them. 1 John 2:15 (NLT)

- The love of your **life** will create the life of your **love**.
5 In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus. Philippians 2:5 (NCV)

Jesus lived with:

- Equality and service towards **others**.
- Humility and obedience towards **God**.

- The goal of a christian is to be like **Jesus**.
29 For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to him—and all along he knew who would —should become like his Son... Romans 8:29 (TLB)

12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. Philippians 2:12-13 (NIV)

Understanding the joy of our salvation:

- Salvation is not something we work **for**, but what we work **out**.

God saved you through faith as an act of kindness. You had nothing to do with it. Being saved is a gift from God. Ephesians 2:8 (GWT)

Working out our salvation means to not **give out** in the process of becoming like Jesus. God who began the good work with you will keep right on helping you grow in His grace until His task within you is finally finished. Philippians 1:6 (NLT)

Salvation is not what we do **for** God, but what has been done **by** God.
For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23 (NLT)

- A life connected with God is a life in **partnership** with God.
12 My dear friends, you have always obeyed God when I was with you. It is even more important that you obey now while I am away from you. Keep on working to complete your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 because God is working in you to help you want to do and be able to do what pleases him. Philippians 2:12-13 (NCV)

8 Even though Jesus was the Son of God, he learned obedience by what he suffered. 9 And because his obedience was perfect, he was able to give eternal salvation to all who obey him. Hebrews 5:8-9 (NCV)

Sanctification is our lifelong **response** to the work of God within us.

...train yourself to live a godly life. Training the body helps a little, but godly living helps in every way. Godly living has the promise of life now and in the world to come. 1 Timothy 4:7-8 (GWT)

What I'm getting at, friends, is that you should simply keep on doing what you've done from the beginning. When I was living among you, you lived in responsive obedience. Now that I'm separated from you, keep it up. Better yet, redouble your efforts. Be energetic in your life of salvation, reverent and sensitive before God. That energy is God's energy, an energy deep within you, God himself willing and working at what will give him the most pleasure. Philippians 2:12-13 (MSG)

- Nothing kills joy quicker than **complaining**.

14 In everything you do, stay away from complaining and arguing. Philippians 2:14 (TLB)

- God **hates** complaining.

Soon the people began to complain about their hardship, and the Lord heard everything they said. Then the Lord's anger blazed against them, and he sent a fire to rage among them, and he destroyed some of the people in the outskirts of the camp. Numbers 11:1 (NLT)

Give thanks in every situation because this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (CEB)

Why we should stop complaining:

14 Do everything without grumbling or arguing. 15 Then you will be the pure and innocent children of God. You live among people who are crooked and evil, but you must not do anything that they can say is wrong. Try to shine as lights among the people of this world, 16 as you hold firmly to the message that gives life. Philippians 2:14-16 (NIV)

- Complaining destroys the **complainer**.

- Complaining distorts the **light**.

You are the light of the world. Matthew 5:14 (ESV)



**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.

- Was there a scripture and/or point that spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Talk about the definition of joy provided in your notes. Do you experience that in your life? Explain.
- What is the goal of a Christian life? Talk about the two point that describe his life and how do those get lived out in our lives?
- What does the statement mean: "Salvation is not something we work for, but what we work out"?
- Why do you think people tend to give out in the process of working out their salvation?
- In your own words, what was done by God that brought salvation? What does that tell you about God?
- According to the Talk Sunday, How do we partner with God? What does God do and what do we do?
- Knowing that sanctification is a lifelong response to God working in us; Do you find that to be encouraging or discouraging? Explain.
- Talk about "Why" complaining kills joy in our life. Do you struggle with complaining about life, Circumstances, where God has you right now, etc.?
- How does complaining destroy us personally?
- How does complaining distort the light within us? Why is that necessary to fix?
- Talk about some things you are grateful to God for in your life.

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