



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

A definition Joy:

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

- Joy is an optimism we have in life based on the **presence** of God and the **character** of God.
- As we **trust** God's character we experience His Joy.

Quick review of last week:

- Our salvation is not something we work **for**, but what we work **out**.
...continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 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)
- Our salvation is not what we do **for** God, but what has been done **by** God.

1 Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, **rejoice in the Lord**. I never get tired of telling you these things, and **I do it to safeguard your faith**. Philippians 3:1 (NLT)

- Our **frustrations** can affect our **faith**.

Our vision:

To creatively **love** and **lead** people in a **growing relationship** with Jesus.

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

Joy killers:

- When **rituals** replace relationship.

2 Watch out for those dogs, those people who do evil, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved. Philippians 3:2 (NLT)

18 For I have told you often before, and I **say it again now with tears in my eyes**, there are many who walk along the Christian road who are really enemies of the cross of Christ. Philippians 3:18 (TLB)

- Religion focuses on what **you do**.
- The Cross focuses on what **Jesus has done**.
- Religion focuses on getting God's **approval**.
- The Cross focuses on **receiving** God's **love**.

7 I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. 8 Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, **I become righteous through faith in Christ**. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith. Philippians 3:7-9 (NLT)

1 Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see. Hebrews 11:1 (NLT)

Faith is... :

- A confident expectation in God that changes how I **respond** with God.

12 It's not that I have already reached this goal or have already been perfected, but I pursue it, so that I may grab hold of it because Christ grabbed hold of me for just this purpose. 13 ... I do this one thing: I forget about the things behind me and reach out for the things ahead of me. 14 The goal I pursue is the prize of God's upward call in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:12-14 (CEB)

- A joy filled life is a **faith** based life.

20 But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. Philippians 3:20 (NLT)

A key to joy is:

- Be **eternity** minded.

We experience joy when we are in touch with **eternity**.

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The Joyful Mindset:

- I bring **Jesus** into my past, present, and future.



**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 difference between joy and happiness. How do people get these confused?
- Why do we need joy in our life today?
- Why is joy based on God's presence and character? Do you agree that our joy increases as our trust in God increases? Explain.
- Read Chapter Philippians 3:1; Do you ever remind yourself to rejoice in the Lord? What does that mean to you?
- How do people replace relationship with Jesus with rituals?
- Talk through the Point that compare religion with the cross of Christ.
- Read Philippians 3: 7-9; What does it mean to be righteous through faith? (Hint: Righteous means "Right with God")
- What does it mean to be eternity minded? Why does that contribute to our joy? Do you believe that you are in touch with eternity? Explain.
- How do we bring Jesus into our past, present and future? How does that fill us with joy?

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