

Realizing Real Joy

I Timothy 6:17

Neh 8:10

10for the joy of the LORD is your strength.

John 15:11

11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

John 16:24

24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

I) Principle to Accept

1 Tim 6:17

17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

A. Purpose for His Children (To Enjoy)

John 15:10-12

10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

John 17:13

3 And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

B. Provision for His Children (giveth all things)

Matt 7:11

11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

[Children, Hunting, Fishing, Golf, Shopping](#)

II) Problem to Avoid

GOD is the Source, THINGS are Secondary to our Joy

A. Misplaced Priorities (Secondary becomes the Primary)

B. Misplaced Pursuit (All the Focus is on the Gift not the Giver)

Vanity sums up Eccl. It is found 33 times in this book

Turn to Eccl 2:1-11

Remember Secondary is always Temporary

III) **Pattern to Attain**

Psychologists say that people need three things to make them happy. First of all they need **something to do**. Secondly they need **something to love**. Finally they need **something to look forward to**. I think Scripture agrees with this.

A. Purpose to Accomplish (**Service Teams**)

John 13:12-17

12 So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you?

13 Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.

14 **If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.**

15 For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.

17 **If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.**

B. People to Love (**Life Groups**)

1 John 1:1-4

1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

2(For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, **that ye also may have fellowship with us**: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

4 **And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.**

C. Place to Anticipate (**Worship Service**)

1 Peter 1:3-8

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 **To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,**

5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

6 **Wherein ye greatly rejoice**, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, **ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory**:

Life Group Questions

1. What is your impression of God when it comes to the enjoyment level of your life? Or do you even think he cares? Why do you feel this way?
2. How has bad theology or preaching branded the minds of people when it comes to what they think God wants for their life? Why is this bad?
3. Name a few things that you have or do that would fall in the enjoy category?
4. Where are they in the priority list, secondary or primary? (Be Honest)
5. What can we do to make sure that our relationship with God stays primary?
6. Have you ever thought that losing the joy in something you used to like could be God trying to get your attention, or even having something you enjoy taken from you might be the Lord trying to put himself back where he rightfully belongs?

Gal 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, **joy**, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Isa 61:10

10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, **my soul shall be joyful in my God**; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

Phil 4:4

4 Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.