

john 15:4
Abide in ME



Bible studies for disciples who make disciples

Loudonville Community Church

Volume 6 - Number 19
The week of April 18, 2021

A Life Well Lived
Abiding Joy

STUDY NOTE

Joy seems to be in short supply these days. Joy is something we all need and want more of - but where do you go to “get” Joy? The world catches glimpses of Joy at times, but Jesus offers us more than mere glimpses- he offers us fullness of Joy!

Read Galatians 5:22, 23

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

1. According to the Scripture, where do we “get” Joy...what is its source?
2. Is Joy a spiritual fruit that is growing in your life? Do you wish you had more Joy?
3. What could help Joy grow in your life? What hinders Joy in your life?
4. Would church be different if its members were overflowing with Joy? In what ways?

Joy defined:

John Piper wrote, “*Christian joy is a good feeling in the soul, produced by the Holy Spirit, as He causes us to see the beauty of Christ in the Word and in the world.*”

Rick Warren said, “*Joy is the settled assurance that God is in control of all the details of my life, the quiet confidence that ultimately, everything is going to be alright, and the determined choice to praise God in every situation.*”

5. Do you agree with these definitions of Joy? Why or why not?
6. In light of these definitions, do you consider yourself a joyful person?
7. What would have to change in order for you to be more joyful?
8. What is the difference between Joy and Happiness?

There is Joy in the Word of God

Read Psalm 1:1-2

“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; **but his delight (his joy) is in the law of the LORD.**”

Psalm 119:162

“**I rejoice at your word as one who finds great treasure.**”

Jeremiah 15:16

“Your words were found, and I ate them, **and your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart;** for I am called by your name, O Lord God of hosts.”

9. How do you respond to these verses...do you feel the same way as the writers about God's Word?
10. Can you discuss a time when God's Word was the source of your Joy?
11. Are there Scriptures that are a special Joy to you? What are they and why?

There is Joy in the Work of God

Read Psalm 92:4

“For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.”

Psalm 20:5

“May we shout for joy over your salvation...”

Psalm 13:5

“But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.”

Habakkuk 3:17-18

“Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.”

12. Do you find great Joy in God’s work of salvation?

13. Has the Joy of your salvation diminished over time?

14. Does God’s work of salvation give you a different perspective when times are hard?

There is Joy in the Worship of God

Read Psalm 5:11

“But let all who take refuge in you **rejoice**; let them ever **sing for joy!**”

Psalm 43:4

“Then I will go to the altar of God, to **God my exceeding joy**, and I **will praise you** with the harp, O God, my God.”

Psalm 47:1

“Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with **loud songs of joy!**”

Psalm 50:23

“The one who **offers thanksgiving** as his sacrifice **glorifies me.**”

15. Why does God command us to worship Him?

C.S. Lewis said that praise goes beyond a mere expression, for our praise “completes the enjoyment; it is its appointed consummation.”

16. What do you think of that? Does that help your understanding of praise and worship?
Why or why not?

17. What helps a church express praise with great joy? How can you grow in your praise and worship of God?

Sermon Notes: *Abiding Joy*

John 15:11

THE
BIBLE RECAP
BY D-GROUP

Sunday, April 18 thru Saturday, April 24, 2021

Psalms 17, 35, 54, 63; 1 Samuel 28-31, Ps. 18; Ps. 121, 123-125, 128-130; 2 Samuel 1-4; Ps. 6, 8-10, 14, 16, 19, 21; 1 Chronicles 1-2; Ps. 43-45, 49, 84-85, 87

