

Knowing and Enjoying God

Our Purpose Is:

To Be Joy Filled Followers Of Jesus,
Who Reflect The Character Of Jesus
In Every Word, Thought And Deed,
To Glorify God By Enjoying Him
And Help Others Find Their Joy
In Him

Books and Writers God has used in my Life.

- Liberating the Ministry from the Success Syndrome – Kent and Barbara Hughes
- Grace Awakening – Chuck Swindoll
- Experiencing God – Henry Blackaby
- Victory over Darkness – Neil Anderson
- Fresh Faith – Jim Cymbala
- UnSeen Realm – Michael Heiser
- Desiring God – John Piper

- 1) The longing to be happy is a universal human experience, and it is good, not sinful.
- 2) We should not try to deny or resist our longing to be happy ... but seek to intensify this longing and nourish it with whatever will provide the deepest and most enduring satisfaction.
- 3) The deepest and most enduring happiness is found ONLY in God.
- 4) The happiness we find in God reaches its consummation when we share it with others in the many ways of love.
- 5) The pursuit of God based pleasure is a necessary part of worship and virtue. That is, The chief end of man is to glorify God **BY enjoying Him forever.**

Westminster Catechism

- The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever
- The chief end of man is to glorify God BY enjoying Him forever
- This morning we want to look at God's command for us to be joyful and how that Joy is found in Him
- Is this Biblical, and if so, how do we live it?

Jesus' aim in all he taught was the joy of His people

- John 15:11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.
- Joy is what God fills us with when we trust in Christ.
- Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing.

The Kingdom of God is Joy.

- **Romans 14:17** For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
- Joy is the fruit of God's Spirit within us.
- **Galatians 5:22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace.

Joy is the aim of everything the apostles did and wrote.

- **2 Corinthians 1:24** Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy.
- **Becoming a follower of Jesus is finding a joy that makes you willing to forsake everything.**
- **Matthew 13:44** "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

Joy is nourished and sustained by the word of God in the Bible

- **Psalm 19:8** the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart.
- **Joy will overtake all sorrow for those who trust Christ.**
- **Psalm 126:5** Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!
- **Psalm 30:5b** Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

God Himself is our Joy.

- **Psalm 43:4** Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy. **Psalm 16:11** You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.
- **What if God is not our Joy?**
- **It is Evil - Jeremiah 2:13** - For my people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, to hew for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water.

Joy in God outstrips all earthly joy.

- **Psalm 4:7** You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound.
- **If your Joy is in God, no one can take your Joy from you.**
- **John 16:22** You have sorrow now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.

God calls all nations and peoples to join in the joy he offers to all who believe. No racism. No ethnocentrism.

- **Psalm 67:4** Let the nations be glad and sing for joy.
- **Psalm 66:1** Shout for joy to God, all the earth.
- **When we meet Christ at his second coming we will enter into his indestructible joy.**
- **Matthew 25:23** His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant. . . . Enter into the joy of your master."

The whole Christian message from beginning to end is good news of great joy

- Luke 2:10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people."
- Isaiah 51:11 And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

This Joy In God Is Commanded.

- Psalm 37:4 Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.
- Psalm 33:1 Shout for joy in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright.
- Phil.4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say "Rejoice!"
- James 1:4 – Consider it pure JOY when you encounter various trials...

Why is it commanded?

- Because when you embrace and treasure God, God is glorified and honoured and your expression of praise is the overflow of your joy
- God knows, that He is the one that can and will bring the greatest satisfaction and joy a person will ever experience. Any else would deprive us of the great joy we were created for.
- Matthew Henry said, "The joy of the Lord will arm us against the assaults of our spiritual enemies and put our mouths out of taste for those pleasures with which the tempter baits his hooks."

What is Self-Denial in Luke 9:23-26?

- ²³And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. ²⁵For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? ²⁶For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.
- It is the renunciation of the lesser inadequate joys for the eternal ones that can only be found in God

What is Self-Denial in Luke 9:23-26?

CS Lewis said, "Indeed, if we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."

Where are you looking for your joy?

- Other things will bring temporary pleasure, but only in God will you find joy without measure and pleasure forever more.
- How do we find our Joy in Christ?
 1. God is glorified not only by His glory's being seen, but by its being rejoiced in.
 2. I must pursue joy in God if I am to glorify Him as the surpassingly valuable Reality in the universe. Joy is not a mere option alongside worship. It is an essential component of worship. - Piper