

Session 3 - Joy In Christ

Objective

To understand what it is, this joy in Christ, where it originates, what robs us of it, and how we might by God's grace increase in it.

Definitions

Webster - the emotion of great delight or happiness caused by something exceptionally good or satisfying.

ag-al-lee-ah'-o - properly to jump for joy, that is, exult - be (exceeding) glad, with exceeding joy, rejoice (greatly).

khar-ah' - cheerfulness, that is, calm delight: — gladness, exceeding joyfulness.

What is your "definition" of joy in Christ?

Observations

(1) An ordained component God's created order.

Job 38: 4 "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone — while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for-joy?"

(2) Joy is the reaction of God's people when they are in his presence, when they are worshipping him. He is their joy.

Lev 9:23 Moses and Aaron then went into the Tent of Meeting. When they came out, they blessed the people; and the glory of the LORD appeared to all the people. Fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and the fat portions on the altar. And when all the people saw it, they shouted for joy and fell facedown.

Psalms 43:3 Send forth your light and your truth, let them guide me; let them bring me to your holy mountain, to the place where you dwell. Then will I go to the altar of God, to God, my joy and my delight. I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God.

Psalms 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.

(3) Joy is God's desire and plan for his people.

John 15:9 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

John 17:13 "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them.

(4) Joy is part and parcel with the gift of faith, it is part of the regenerating ' ' work of the Holy Spirit, that he places his mark of joy on us.

Matthew 13: 44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

Acts 16 34 The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God — he and his whole family.

I Thess 1:6 You became imitators of us and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.

(5) Joy is the ongoing fruit of the spirit in our lives

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

(6) We have joy in the salvation of others and the advancement of the kingdom of God.

Luke 10: 21 At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.

I Thess 3:9 How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you?

II Cor 1:24 Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, because it is your joy that you stand firm.

Rom 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

(7) 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.

Psalm 32:11 Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

(8) Everlasting joy is our inheritance in Christ.

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.

Matthew 25:23 His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant... Enter into the joy of your master."

Rev 19:6 Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" And he added, "These are the true words of God."

(9) Sin robs us of our joy.

Eph 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of 'God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

The Mortification of Sin

How we might by God's grace increase in joy - the mortification of sin in believers (John Owen <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/owen/mort.html>)

Preparation:

- (1) Consider the dangerous symptoms of the dominion of sin in your life.
- (2) Get a clear and abiding sense on your mind of the guilt, danger and evil of your sin.
- (3) Load your conscience with the guilt of it.
- (4) Thoughtfulness of the excellency of the majesty of God which fills us with thoughts of our own vileness.

The work itself:

- (1) Set faith at work for the killing of sin
By faith fill your soul with a due consideration of that provision which is laid up in Jesus Christ for this end and purpose, that all your lusts may be mortified.
Raise up your heart to an expectation of relief from Christ; Consider his mercifulness, tenderness, kindness. Consider his faithfulness who has promised this relief.
This engages Jesus to a full and speedy assistance.
This engages the heart to attend diligently to all the ways and means whereby Christ is wont to communicate himself to the soul.
- (2) Consider the work of the Holy Spirit in it.
Everything here described as our duty is effected, carried on and accomplished by the power of the Spirit in all the parts and degrees of it.