Christian Joy

Adam Willingham · 1 Peter 1:3–9

INTRODUCTION

- Christian joy is not merely an emotion, it is an attitude.
- It's an attitude that is based upon hope.
- But sadly, many Christians are lacking in joy.

1 The Basis of Joy: A Living Hope

Philippians 4:4; 1 Peter 1:3–5

- Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say rejoice.
- Who according to his great mercy, has caused us to be born again to a living hope. Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
- You give me a Christian who has no hope, and I'll give you a Christian who has no joy.
- No, it is confident expectation, a living hope.
- This passage is pointing out that we need to have confidence that our salvation is secure. As long as we are faithful, of course.

2 The Second Basis of Joy: Faith

1 Peter 1:6–9; James 1:2

- In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials.
- Happiness for the Christian is defined in a totally different way than happiness for the world.
- It is not simply reserved for the person of fortunate circumstance. But it is available to all of us who trust in Jesus Christ, regardless of our circumstance.
- It is not a command, it is a result. Joy is not a command, it is a result.

3 We Find Joy in the Spirit

Galatians 5:22–23

- But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
- And joy is part of the fruit of the Spirit.
- If you have no joy in your religion, there's a leak in your Christianity somewhere.
- If we find ourselves irritable and unhappy people, maybe we are not filled with the Spirit.

4 Six Behaviors of Joy

Ephesians 5:18–20; Philippians 2:14; Philippians 4:4–13

- Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. Singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord.
- Always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father.
- It's our complaining that generates our unhappiness so often.
- Whatever you fill your mind with, that's going to affect your spirit and your attitude,.
- I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.
- Joy sings, gives thanks, does not complain, is anxious for nothing, thinks on good things, and is content in any circumstance.

5 Benefits of Christian Joy: Effectiveness, Influence, Strength

- To be lacking in joy is to be paralyzed in your spiritual walk. But to have joy is to be lit on fire.
- If you want to be attractive to others in the faith, be a joyful person.
- You see the direct connection between their joy, their influence, and the saving of others.
- Do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **If we're going to fix our eyes upon him, the author and source, the perfecter of our faith, then we're going to do what our Lord did, and we're going to look ultimately to heaven for our joy and for our fulfillment.**

MY NOTES