

Joy: The Choice to Rejoice

John 15: 4-6

4Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 5"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

A. What Joy Is Not

1. Joy is not the same as _____.
2. Joy is not _____.
3. Joy is not _____, and is not dependant on _____.

B. What Joy Is

1. Joy is a _____ from God.

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.

2. Joy is a gift of transcendent _____.
3. Joy is s a blessing to sustain us in times of _____.

1 Thessalonians 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.

4. Joy is a _____.
5. Joy is a new _____ and new _____.

"Joy is the serious business of heaven." -C.S. Lewis

C. Three Reasons Why Christians Ought to Be the Most Positive People on the Planet

1. No situation is _____.

Romans 12:12

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

2. God has a _____.

Romans 5:3

Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance.

Joy is not the absence of _____, but the _____ of God in the midst of the problem.

3. Our _____ gives us a whole new _____.

D. The "Joy" Workout

1. Develop an _____ of _____.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

We don't have to be thankful _____ all circumstances, but we can be thankful _____ all circumstances.

"Gratitude releases more emotional energy than any attitude in your life."
-Hans Seyle

2. Cultivate inner joy by _____.

Acts 20:35

In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

2 Corinthians 9:7-8

7Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

We are most like _____ when we are _____.

Giving gladly opens us up to _____ freely from God.

Malachi 3:10

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

3. Joy is developed through _____.

Mark 8:35

For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will

save it.

Ephesians 6:7-8

7Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, 8because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.

Personal joy is found in _____ centered living.

4. Joy is found in _____ Christ with others.

Luke 15:10

In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Your _____ greatest joy in life will be introducing others to Christ.