

Wednesday, February 21, 2007

# How to Pursue Joy in a Messed Up World

John 15:11 (HCSB)

*"I have spoken these things to you so that My joy may be in you and your joy may be complete."*

*In a world that is so \_\_\_\_\_, is it really possible to live lives that are overflowing with joy?*

Hebrews 12:1-3 (HCSB)

*Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily ensnares us, and run with endurance the race that lies before us, keeping our eyes on Jesus, the source and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that lay before Him endured a cross and despised the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of God's throne.*

I. Two \_\_\_\_\_ of Joy

A. "Dee-Da-Day"

"A child kicks his legs rhythmically through excess, not the absence, of life. Because children have a bounding vitality, because they are in spirit fierce and free, they want things repeated and are still excited. They always say, 'Do it again!' And the grown-up person does it again until he's nearly dead, for grown-up people are not strong enough to exult in monotony. But perhaps God is strong enough to exult in monotony. It is possible that God says every morning, 'Do it again!' to the sun, and every evening, 'Do it again!' to the moon.

"It may not be automatic necessity that makes all daisies alike. It may be that God makes every daisy separately but has never gotten tired of making them." - G. K. Chesterton

B. "Do It Again!"

Philippians 4:4 (HCSB)

*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again, "Rejoice."*

II. How Do We \_\_\_\_\_ Joy?

A. Hang around \_\_\_\_\_.

Proverbs 15:30 (NIV)

*A cheerful look brings joy to the heart, and good news gives health to the bones.*

B. Practice the \_\_\_\_\_ of celebration.

C. View life from a \_\_\_\_\_ perspective.

Revelation 19:7 (HCSB)

*Let us be glad, rejoice, and give Him glory, because the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His bride has prepared herself.*