

SPIRITUAL JOY (I Peter 1:6-8)

Joy – The dictionary defines joy as “ great delight, happiness, the expression as feeling glad.”

Galatians 5:22 The bible definition of joy is different than the dictionary. Spiritual joy does not depend on circumstances or the emotion of the moment. The joy of the bible depends on our faith.

JOY IN RELATIONSHIP

Luke 2:10 Our immediate joy comes from knowing that Jesus Christ came into the world as Savior.

Isaiah 61:10 We not only can have joy because He has saved us but He has given us the garments of righteousness and a promise of Him returning to get us for the marriage of the Lamb.

John 16:33 Our relationship with Him causes us to be able to have a peace that the world does not understand even though we may have trials in this life.

Psalms 16:11 The psalmist tells us that when we walk close to the Lord we can have “fullness of joy” and He will guide us through life as we enjoy His presence in our daily walk.

JOY IN CONTENTMENT

Romans 14:17 Believers can have a joy in knowing that God has given us everything we need for this life and the life to come. This kind of contentment can only be found in God's children.

Hebrews 13:5 God does not want us to be jealous over what others may have. The promise that He would always be with us is not for the world but only for His children. We are to live by faith not sight.

I Timothy 6:6-10 God's promise to us tells us that in order to have His joy and contentment we also must have a lifestyle that is Godly. Many believers are not content because they are not mature in faith.

JOY IN TRIALS

James 1:2-4 James tells us that we can have joy in the middle of a difficulty because it may be that God has allowed the trial in order to test our faith and to bring us to spiritual maturity.

Acts 16:25 There will come times of weeping and physical or emotional pain while trying to serve the Lord but there can be a great joy in knowing that God is pleased if we never stop serving him.

Acts 5:40-41 Jesus had promised that the disciples would be persecuted as He was persecuted. The early believers were filled with joy as a result of suffering for Jesus.

II Corinthians 4:17; I Peter 4:13 These verses and others in the N.T. Promise us that if we are persecuted for Christ in this world we will be greatly rewarded for it in glory.

JOY IN OBEDIENCE

John 15:9-11 Many believers today have lost their joy because of willful disobedience to God's word. Jesus promised that if we obey Him, His joy would remain in us.

Hebrews 4:12 We should have great joy in our hearts knowing that as we daily consider God's word He will convict us and guide us as He judges the content and intent of our heart.

II Corinthians 3:18; Romans 8:29 As we obey God in studying His word we can have unending joy in knowing that it is His desire to change us from who and what we are currently into the very image and character of Jesus Christ.

