



The Nature of Real Church: Joy

Greg Wendschlag July 3, 2022

"The fruit of the spirit is...joy..." Gal. 5:22

Joy is an expression of delight arising from the consideration of a present good or assured possession of a future good.

1. Joy is a focus before it is a feeling.

- Focus each day on the nature and promises of God

"You make known to me the path of life; You will fill me with joy in Your presence, with eternal pleasures at Your right hand." Ps 16:11

"Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy..." 1 Pet 1:8

2. Joy comes when you consider your burden a blessing.

- If God is good, then everything God does for us and with us will work for our good.

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." James 1:2-4

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purposes." Rom. 8:28

3. Joy comes when you find purpose in the pain.

- Some things can only be accomplished by going through pain. Trust that God has a purpose in every trial.

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." Heb. 12:2-3

"But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when His glory is revealed." 1 Pet 4:13

4. Joy comes when you choose to obey God's commands.

- Joy comes from the pleasure God has in His children when they obey Him.

"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 15:10-11

"The joy of the Lord is our strength." Neh. 8:10