

## JOY

The universe, its creatures and their lives all serve God's purpose of sharing Himself with the others He has created. One of His greatest gifts to man is the capacity to experience life and to feel with our emotions. Rejoicing/Joy is one of God's gifts of experience that occurs as we orient/commit to the Spirit's revelations about our life in the plan of God.

### 1. Definition & Description of "Joy"

- A deep feeling or condition of happiness or contentment; The emotion of great delight or happiness caused by something exceptionally good or satisfying; keen pleasure; elation:
- Happiness is "a state of well-being, a pleasurable or satisfying experience." The definition of the word "rejoice," from which our word "joy" comes, is "to feel great delight, to welcome or to be glad."

**chaïro/chara** - delight, elation, gladness, celebrate, rejoice

- Range/meaning: simple greeting, settled condition of gladness, celebration
  - i. Mt 26:49, 28:9 - greeting: Hail, hello, I am glad to see you; 2Cor 13:11 - good-bye
  - ii. Mt 5:12 - Rejoice - momentary celebratory feeling based on a positive circumstance
  - iii. Jms 1:2, JN 15:11 Joy - an enduring state of gladness & hope based on the work of GHS
- **Agalliao** - outward expression of inner elation - exuberant rejoicing
- **Euphraineo** - make merry, to party, to celebrate
- Happiness Spectrum ranges from abject misery to ecstatic joy

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<b>Misery</b>	<b>unhappy</b>	<b>numb</b>	<b>pleased</b>	<b>content/peace</b>	<b>joy</b>
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- Words describe and approximate the realities we experience in life - what is joy?
- All Christian words describing human experiences are secular words describing normal human states and emotions.
- Normal human experience becomes spiritual by GHS & attaching our beliefs and affections to God and the blessings of His plan - Joy/football or Joy/God
- God is absolute but our understanding & experience are personal and unique.
- Does joy feel the same to everyone and should we all express it the same way?
- If my version of joy is less emotional or ecstatic than yours, is yours the mark of a superior spiritual life or closer walk with God? How do we uniquely experience joy?
- If I don't regularly experience intense emotional appreciation does it mean I am not spiritual, growing or mature? What inner experience can I expect from maturity?

### 2. Three categories of Joy: Sinful; Spiritual; Human - based on the object of joy

- (1Cor 13:6) Does not rejoice in unrighteousness but rejoices in truth
- Sinful Rejoice in -R - vengeance, malice - happy when others are harmed
- Spiritual Rejoice in truth - +R, God's plan & blessings, growth
- Human Rejoice when our human agenda is fulfilled - prosperity

### 3. Christian joy is based on spiritual reasoning revealed & empowered by GHS.

(Gal 5:22-23) Fruit / production / results of the ministry of the Spirit in believer's life.

- God the Holy Spirit (GHS) shows us significance of events from divine perspective - enables appreciation
  - (Mt 5:12) Rejoicing about persecution / rewards; (Lk 10:20) names recorded in heaven
  - (Phil 1:18) Advance of the gospel; (Phil 1:27) martyrdom; (Rev 19:7) marriage of the Lamb
  - (Jam 1:2-4) Adversity --> growth
- Joy is situational - based on events we consider positive & desirable.

#### 4. The core reasoning of Christian joy is that God loves us forever in Christ.

(Jn 15:9-11) AS God the Father loved Christ, He loves us; if we remain in His love, we will share His joy and our joy will be complete.  
 (Rom 5:5) GHS pours out His love into our hearts at salvation  
 (1Jn 4:18) We grow mature in our love relationship with God

- As we grow into greater intimate love with God, our joy increases & stabilizes

#### 5. Christian joy is based on the expectation of future spiritual victory & blessing.

(Rom 12:12) Rejoicing in hope - joy based on expectations; images of future blessing  
 (1 Thess. 2:19) For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming?

- Paul imagines standing before Christ with these believers, experiencing joy because of the faith and growth of these believers.
  - (Rev 19:7) - Rejoice, be glad, and give glory - marriage of Jesus to the church
- Look to day we come into the fulfillment of our created purpose - Bride of Christ

#### 6. Intensity and stability of Christian joy increases as we grow spiritually.

(Heb 12:11) Discipline is not joyful but sorrowful - struggle with God's training program  
 (Jam 1:2-4) Adversity is a reason for joy - develops from anger / fear -- acceptance -- glad - rejoicing that you are worthy to suffer for growth or to glorify God.  
 (Gal 5:22) Fruit of GHS - increases as we grow and shed distractions from OM baggage.  
 (Phil 3:1; 4:4) Rejoice in the Lord at all times - state of joy & celebration  
 (John 15:11) "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full" - 2 subjunctives indicating the potential for joy

- These things - love of God; remain in His love - basis of our joy
- my joy may be in you – p.a.subj - potential for His joy in us - know "these things"
- your joy may be full – a.a.subj - future point where our joy is completed - growth
  - a. GHS gives us a joyful image of the blessings of victorious spiritual life
  - b. As we grow in knowledge of God's plan for us, we have more to be glad about.
  - c. As we are free from our human views/agenda we can be more attached to God's view
  - d. As we identify more with our present & future with God, we settle into a positive image of life that goes from quiet gladness to excited rejoicing.
  - e. Spiritual growth increases our capacity to experience and express the fruit of GHS.