

Finding Joy



--Romans 14:17-18

Finding Joy

Aim Of This Lesson—

**To show Christians how to be
hopeful and joyful when they
experience Satan's efforts to
destroy their faith.**

Finding Joy

Scripture text: --Romans 14:17-18 nkjv

¹⁷ for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸ For he who serves Christ in these things *is* acceptable to God and approved by men.

Finding Joy

- Joy—character trait required of a disciple easily forgotten.
- Paul says, “the kingdom of God is joy in the Holy Spirit.”
- God places an importance of each of us having joy in our lives.
 - This concept has been twisted and distorted into “*God wants me to be happy.*”

Finding Joy

- **We sacrifice our families for more possessions.**
- **We press for success and power.**
- **We think we will find happiness in our work.**
- **Our society has fallen to the point where we believe we are defined by our jobs.**
 - **Happiness has become a passive, self-serving pursuit in today's society.**

Finding Joy

- **Society suggests that there is nothing that we are to do on our part for happiness.**
- **You can just find happiness.**
- **Happiness is not something that can be generated, according to the world, but something that you simply stumble across.**
 - **We speak of happiness as if it were not a decision on our part, but simply is the end result of a variety of circumstances.**

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- **None of this, however, is what God is referring to.**
- **When God speaks of the need for Christians to be joyful, he is not implying that you should participate in selfish pursuits in order to be happy.**
- **The scriptures speak of having joy regardless of the circumstances.**
 - **Joy is an active responsibility to enjoy the life God has given us, regardless of our life situation.**

Finding Joy

We can find joy regardless of what we are facing by:

- 1. Through God's Word.**
- 2. By confessing and stopping sin.**
- 3. By taking a long range view of life.**
- 4. By thinking about others first.**
- 5. By remembering all that God has done.**

Finding Joy

1. Finding Joy through God's Word.

Romans 15:4-6, 13 *nkjv*

⁴For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. ⁵Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, ⁶that you may with one mind *and* one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹³Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- Reading about people who came before us and overcome obstacles in their lives offers us hope that we, too, may succeed.

Finding Joy

1. Finding Joy through God's Word.

Hebrews 13:5-6 *nkjv*

⁵ *Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."* ⁶ So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

Read
About →

David's struggles in the Psalms.

Wise living in the Proverbs.

The Power and love of Jesus in the gospels.

The activities of the first century Christians in the epistles.

Finding Joy

2. Finding Joy by confessing and stopping sin.

Psalms 32:1-5 *nkjv*

¹Blessed is *he whose* transgression is forgiven, *whose* sin is covered. ² Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit *there is* no deceit. ³ When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long. ⁴ For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. ⁵ I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

- Sin is far more devastating than being out of fellowship with God (though this is very significant).
- Sin corrupts every part of our being.

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3. Finding Joy by taking a long range view of life.

II Corinthians 4:16-18 *nkjv*

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward *man* is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory, ¹⁸ while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

Hebrews 12:1-2 *nkjv*

¹Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Finding Joy

3. Finding Joy by taking a long range view of life.

- **Our difficulties are momentary.**
- **Jesus looked past the suffering and the shame of the cross and saw joy that was set before Him.**
- **The joy was not in the suffering, but in the knowledge that His suffering would bring about future glory for all people.**
 - **Our lives now is about preparing ourselves to be with God.**

Finding Joy

4. Finding Joy by thinking about others first.

II Corinthians 8:1-5 *nkjv*

¹ Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: ² that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. ³ For I bear witness that according to *their* ability, yes, and beyond *their* ability, *they were* freely willing, ⁴ imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. ⁵ And not *only* as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and *then* to us by the will of God.

- Despite these difficulties, the Macedonian Christians had an abundance of joy because they could help others with a wealth of generosity.

What would we have done in their situation?

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5. Finding Joy by remembering all that God has done.

Hebrews 10:19-25 *nkjv*

¹⁹ Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹ and *having* a High Priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

- We need to focus on the things that really matter in life.
- Our difficulties are light and our suffering is small in comparison to what Jesus endured so that we could be with Him.

Finding Joy

- While we will have pain and suffering in our lives, we can remain joyful, positive people because of the hope we have in Jesus.
- Turn to God's words in times of trouble and find encouragement.
- Keep your eyes on the prize.
- Focus on helping others instead of focusing on your own problems.
 - To obtain God's blessings, you must stop sinning.

The Plan of Salvation

Hear

Romans 10:13-17

Believe

John 20:31, Hebrews 11:6

Repent

Luke 13:3, Acts 17:30

Confess

Romans 10:10, Matthew 10:32

Baptism

Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38



How to Make a Request for Prayer **or Baptism**

PrayerRequests@whelesscoc.org



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