

Elements of Joy, Part 1

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Philippians 1:3-8.
- B. Joy is not the same thing as happiness. Circumstances do not determine joy.
- C. True joy is unwavering conscience in the spiritual life.
- D. Trials do not touch joy. Trials may increase them because they make a person more dependent upon God.
- E. Only the Holy Spirit can produce spiritual joy. Follow Jesus Christ to get true joy.
- F. There are several elements to spiritual joy.

II. Joy of recollection.

- A. The heart of joy touches the sweet things of life.
- B. Yielding to the Spirit can help us relinquish negative things.

III. Joy of intercession.

- A. When prayer is under the control of the Spirit, joy can be had for others in prayer.
- B. Joy comes from seeing God in the work of the lives of others.

IV. Joy of participation.

- A. This sometimes means giving money. (Romans 12:13; 15:26)
- B. This also means cooperation with the spread of the gospel.
- C. The partnership is not manmade--it is divine effected through the Trinity.
- D. The partnership is a fellowship of life, faith, prayer, praise, thanksgiving, love, service, contribution, witness, attachment to Christ and warfare against a common enemy.
- E. The church had a fellowship that God had touched. (1 Samuel 26)

V. Conclusion. Reach out to God and deal with sin for joy.

Application Questions:

1. How can one enjoy a more positive thought life?

2. How can you maximize the joy of your prayer life? Explain.

3. How have you experienced joy in working with believers toward a common goal?
