

## **Elements of Joy, Part 3**

*John MacArthur*

### I. Introduction.

A. Text: Philippians 1.

B. We have the ability to produce in God joy, surprisingly.

### II. Things that make God rejoice in us.

A. God rejoices when we repent. (Luke 15:7, 10)

B. Faith gives God joy. (Hebrews 11:5-6)

C. Adoration gives God joy. (Psalm 147:11)

D. Prayer gives God delight. (Proverbs 15:8)

E. Righteousness gives God joy. (I Chronicles 29:17)

F. Blameless character gives God joy. (Proverbs 11:20)

G. Faithfulness brings God joy. (Matthew 25:21-23)

### III. We should always be joyous.

A. Spiritual joy is a gift of God.

B. Paul found joy in petition, participation and anticipation.

### IV. Paul experienced the joy of affection.

A. This exhilarates the heart.

B. Paul is concerned for his church because of his affection for them. (II Corinthians 7:3)

C. The heart is the center of our being, so it must be clean. (Proverbs 4:23, Acts 8:37, Deuteronomy 10:6, 10:16, I Kings 2:4, Proverbs 3:5, I Peter 3, Psalm 51:10, 119:136, 86:11, Matthew 23:7)

D. Paul was deeply affectionate with the community supernaturally. (Philippians 2:26, Galatians 5:22)

E. The fellowship of God's people should be a fellowship of joy.

V. Things that cause you to lose your joy.

- A. False salvation. (II Corinthians 13:5)
- B. Satan and demons. (I Peter 5:8)
- C. An inadequate understanding of God's sovereignty.
- D. Prayerlessness.
- E. Moving from the high to the low.
- F. A circumstance orientation.
- G. Ingratitude.
- H. Failure to remember from what you were saved. (Psalm 103:2)
- I. Dissatisfaction with earthly condition. (Philippians 4:12)
- J. Fear of the future. (Matthew 6)
- K. Living by uncontrolled feelings. (Psalm 42)
- L. Morbid self-analysis.
- M. Self-centeredness.
- N. Guilt. (I Samuel 2:1)

**Application questions:**

1. Is biblical joy an emotion? Explain.

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2. What does it mean to experience the joy of affection? How can this be fostered?

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3. Which joy-stealer do you struggle with the most? How can you respond appropriately?

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