

Joy

I. Intro (A) why study? we all want it — or do we?

we want to escape pain & be HAPPY according to our own expectations yet acquiring our expectations doesn't keep us happy

Jer 2:13 Broken Cisterns — pursuit of (self-centered) happiness is the unhappiest of pursuits

our problem arises from confusion about ^{what} happiness / joy is & how the daily choices we make determine (to a great extent) how joyful we can be

(B) Definitions Bible → will = heart turned toward or away from something (see 2 Jno 3:5 Ps 64:10 Deut 17:17 1 Kings 11:4,9 Deut 30:17 Ps 141:4 Jer 17:5)

p33 Will - incline / sin
p34 happiness

this world is fickle - yet we will have ultimate happiness in heaven - pursuit of happiness is futile (Jer) yet GOD is a spring of living water - we can be refreshed in His presence = JOY

Ps 43:3-4 Ps 63:1-3 (the pain from longing for GOD is more precious than the possession of anything else)

(Ebedi water metaphor see p.39)

def: Joy = "sense of delight that arises in us in the presence of someone or something we love" p41

greek: CHARA (Charis = grace) causes delight
Ps 21:6 Jer 31:12 BX - God supplies the water but

its not a garden until cultivated = prepare heart to receive flow of Joy so we can bear fruit

II chart

introduce outline

- A: floodgates - indicatives - basic knowledge of who GOD is (ways of looking to GOD)
- B: furrows - plow channel - imperatives daily life habits
- C: freezing of Joy - things that obscure vision of GOD
- D: need to learn to apply grace at this stage

see p50 sequence
fruit ←

(A) Flood gates - ways of looking to God - Release joy from river
direct our attention - fix eyes - rejoice always
→ inward habit of beholding God - His goodness is delightful

① FAITH - past Heb 12:2
God is creative - mighty - holy - loving - CROSS looking
back - how could you NOT rejoice?! Rom 8:32

② HOPE - future 1 Pet 1:3-6
w/ the Lord forever when we see His face, He'll be
smiling at us - Share His glory - realize how all
along He has protected us mt 25:21 "well done... enter
JOY of master"

③ LOVE present 1 Jn 3:16, 4:7
loving in spite of what's visible - having good intentions
(ie God toward us - us toward others) Seeing the potential
Seeing others from God's perspective (HUMILITY)

BIG PICTURE - Broad perspective - as our vision of God is great
our joy in the Lord will be a flood

(B) FURROWS narrowly focused view of God - shows us some detail
of His character ie faithfulness

Habit See Sanders p153

Hos 10:12B - Break up
your fallow
ground...

① Discipline p86, 87-88 1 Tim 4:7 Heb 12:11

② Scripture Jer 15:16 God's love letter p92 (Zoren quote)
allow reading to become a conversation - Seek God -
(What does passage teach about God's character? Thankfulness -
what response? - Knowing God better)

③ Prayer Lk 18 Pharisee & Publican
prayed to himself! vs vision of God's Nearness
Ps 16:8-9, 11

p106 Dark Night of Soul

Seeing God's Nearness

④ worship Ps 100:1-3 p112 (Lewis quote) " " power
Seeing God on the throne praise/thanks = good place to begin
1 Cor 10:31 Packer July 15

⑤ Meditation Ps 143:5-6 alertness to God in everyday circumstances (including nature)
Psalms 8, 19, 104

⑥ Obedience Jn 14:21, 15:11, 14-15
Mt 25 parable of talents - unprofitable servant had fear
b/ view of harsh taskmaster. fear vs. love motivation
friendship = fear of distancing myself alienating

⑦ Service (Thygen = weak here XCF = strong - ministry = means of growth)
elo 58:10-11, 14 Challenge to gifts etc. ~~etc.~~
area of creativity
JOY: when my contribution corresponds to the needs in the world

⑧ Fellowship 1 Cor 12:26-27 Phil 2:2 experience JC in Body of Christ
serve & be served - encourage & be encouraged

⑨ Witness | Jn 1:1-4 we live on a thirsty planet
Jk 15 - Joy in heaven 1 Pet 2:9

⑩ work Deut 16:15 Col 3:23-24 Joy in accomplishing
ability to see we are echoing the work of God Himself -
Gods: creativity, productivity, activity, thought, order, beauty

⑪ Play/human Prov 15:15B feast of prodigal son vs older brother
live life w/ open hand - rest in ways that really refresh (not drain eg tv?) (Neil Anderson - key concept FUN = uninhibited spontaneity)
OT - God set up feasts to celebrate - JC accused of being a glutton
p79-80 Willard

we were made to rejoice & delight in His presence eternally - YET...

⑫ FREEZING Bad attitudes or sins (grooves) cause us to lose our vision of God - loss of love to God/others blocks warming God - chills heart - freezes garden (crabs - self-centered - men & women)
eyes turned away

① GUILT Ps 32:4-5 Need for repentance

② FEAR Ps 112:1, 7-8
distance

Not us of joy - seeing GOD in the
COURAGE = "fear that has taken its
Stand on the faithfulness of GOD"

Rom 8:31 1 Pet 3:6

③ DOUBT Jn 20 Thomas p222 Wesley quote
tests us like gold - keep seeking

④ DESPAIR Num 13 - grasshoppers in our own sight
p230 quotes

people who despair of GOD's goodness frequently have a
low view of themselves - need to see self image through
mirror of word

⑤ PRIDE 1 Cor 10:12 p242 pride = fleeting pleasure - then comes a fall
need to humble ourselves on GOD will!
self-absorption is the opposite of holiness

⑥ DISCONTENTMENT Heb 13:5, Ps 118:24 p246
(↳ the kind that takes our eyes off GOD vs godly discontent)

* this is a control issue - learn to accept limits. } = Joy
accept situation

need to dig new furrows to redirect gaze.

⑦ Anger Ps 37:8 (make anger your ally)

Eph 4:26

focus on anger - larger it appears
like log/speck mt 7 - irritates eye/heart until removed

⑧ Legalism Gal 5:1

Grace-killer Joyless rigid
this puts GOD in a box - less we see of GOD = less JOY
(miss pleasure of seeing Him → the GOD of surprises!)

⑨ Ambition Phil 3:13-14, 18-19 Heb 12:1-2

↳ idolatry p268

Jas 4:8 pure heart = eyes/heart focus singly on GOD's will
if eyes/heart turned toward something desirable - it becomes the
center of our vision - puts GOD in the background & Joy
dries up. left w/ numbness

we tend to run toward what is in the center of our
vision - if its not GOD - it will drain us

p275

⑩ SUFFERING Rom 8:18 "where is God when it hurts"
 [Tracy's teaching - He's in you not in hurtful thing -]
 GOD is beside us p101 Crabb - our problem is NOT
 who hurt me = self centered

III CONCLUSION

- See through happiness myth - when our eyes are off GOD we're empty, fruitless - sad self centered (tears only water in garden)
- Build godly habits - in God is fullness of JOY
 Neh 8:10 - Joy of Lord is my strength
- gardening ≠ total instant gratification

remember JOY - in presence of something / someone we love.

Parker July 14 practice art of christian thinking

- Choose to dwell on sources of joy - direct thoughts to what triggers joy
- Choose to pursue joy -

fruit in garden = transformation
 2 Cor 3:18

our perceptions, thoughts & behaviors conform to His

personal example

Joy gives us:
 flowers { motivation
 direction
 strength/energy

God sings for joy b/c He's delighted w/ us
 He's allowed us to give something of genuine value to Him.

