

# **The Whole Story: The Importance of Joy**

## **Day 1**

### **Choices**

We cannot live without joy, so we will find it in God or spend our lives searching for it in the world. Even for the Christian, this choice needs to be made, because many Christians try to find their joy in the world rather than God. This choice is often seen in their prayers as well as their actions, as they spend all their prayers praying for the circumstances in the world where they think they will find their joy. In their actions, they will only do the spiritual things when they feel like doing them, or when there is nothing else "better" to do. How do we choose to root our joy in God rather than the world? Check out this article to find some great suggestions for doing that:

<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/how-do-i-stop-rooting-my-joy-in-my-circumstances>

*Veres: Romans 8:7, 1 Kings 18:21, Proverbs 16:16*

*Prayer Topics: Perspective, Virtue, Wonder*

## **Day 2**

### **Stolen Joy**

The book of John tells us that the thief comes only to kill and destroy, and that becomes more clear the older I get. Satan is a thief, and he uses a number of tools to steal our joy. One of the most effective tools he uses is worry. We become anxious about the future so often and so completely that we completely lose the ability to enjoy the present. How do we counter this tool that is used so effectively against us? Check out this article to learn how:

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/he-knows-your-need>

*Verses: John 10:10, Luke 12:33-34, Romans 12:19*

*Prayer Topics: Contentment, Trust, Hope*

## **Day 3**

## **Joy and Worship**

To worship God is to declare the worth of His glory. As we have stated previously, joy is the result of glory. We enjoy a good meal, a beautiful sunset, and good conversation. If God is the most glorious being in existence, then our joy should be most complete in Him. We worship God when we enjoy Him, in fact we cannot really worship God without enjoying Him. Our joy in God should last beyond the worship service, filling our entire lives with joy in recognition of His constant, ever present glory. Check out this article to learn more:

<https://www.first15.org/devotionals/the-joy-of-the-lord-2025/>

*Verses: Romans 15:13, John 16:22, Proverbs 17:22*

*Prayer Topics: Admiration, Awe, Abundance*

## **Day 4**

### **The Need for Joy**

Check out this great devotional on why joy is so important:

<https://www.samstorms.org/enjoying-god-blog/post/enjoying-god>

*Verses: 1 Chronicles 16:31, Deuteronomy 28:47, Psalm 37:4*

*Prayer Topics: Desire, Praise, Fulfillment*

## **Day 5**

**Thanks to Sylvester Warsaw, Jr for our devotional today**

Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work,” John 4:34. When you and I think about food we as a rule don’t think about food as being in this fashion. When we think about food we think about that which nourishes and fuels the physical body as well as our mental and emotional state and not that of accomplishing and finishing the will of God. There are those who plan out their meal plan for the week and there are those who decide what they have an appetite for on that given day or what’s

available in the house. Just like our physical body needs food for fuel for survival, likewise our spirit has to be fed.

In Matthew 11:28-30, we're encouraged to take the yoke of Jesus upon ourselves and to learn from Him. The reason we must learn is because God's way isn't the way of this world and Jesus is God in the flesh made man who was and is our Kinsman Redeemer. Isaiah 55:8-9 says this, "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts your thoughts." In order to know the will of God inner transformation must occur by the renewing of our mind, Romans 12:1-2. The transformation God takes His children through can't be read in a self help book by some motivational speaker looking to make money. Learning the ways of God isn't a transaction, it's lived experience that God teaches His children. Jesus, even facing death encouraged Himself in God as He prayed for His disciples and those who believe their testimony to remain steadfast and hopeful in God. The beautiful reality is Jesus not only teaches us how to lay down our lives willingly, He also teaches us how to live so others outside the body may have the opportunity to come to Jesus so they can live in and through Christ Jesus our risen Lord and Savior. We can't be effective children of God if not desiring intimacy with Him through Christ Jesus. Psalm 23 tells us that He prepares a table in the presence of our enemies, therefore, the question becomes are you eating from the table He has prepared for us?

