



God With Us: 'Joy in Relationship'

Pastor Robb Schmidgall, December 18-19, 2021

"And the angel said to them, 'FEAR NOT for behold I bring you good news of GREAT JOY that will be to all people.'" Luke 2:10 (ESV)

The Enemy of Joy is Fear.

This is at the root of almost every anxiety, worry, and concern that we carry and it steals our joy.

The Friends of Joy

1. Sorrow

"Those who sow with tears will reap with shouts of joy." -Psalm 126:5

"You have turned my sorrow into dancing. My sackcloth into joy." -Psalm 30:11

"Your joy is your sorrow unmasked. And the self same well from which your laughter rises was often times filled with your tears." -Renee Descartes

2. Perseverance

"Jesus, the founder & perfecter of our faith, who for **the joy that was set before him endured** the cross, despising the shame, & is seated at the right hand of the Father." -Hebrews 12:2

3. Questions

C.S. Lewis talking about the Biblical meaning of joy called it an *“unsatisfied desire which is itself more desirable than any other satisfaction.”*

The Producers of Joy

1. Gratitude

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
-1 Thess 5:16-18

2. Trust

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.” Romans 15:13

"He who binds to himself a joy,

Does the winged life destroy;

But he who kisses the joy as it flies,

Lives in eternity's sun rise.” -Henry Blake

3. Service

"These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full (complete)." -John 15:11

The Purpose of Joy is simply to give it away.

Application: Identify a fear you want to let go or a "friend of joy" you want to relationally reframe.

A PRAYER to PRAY: Father, teach us what it means to have true joy in You Lord. Let us know when we are sacrificing joy because of fear, and lead us to understand how gratitude, trust, and service creates joy in our lives. Let us overflow with the Joy of You so that we can share it with those around us. All this I pray in Jesus name amen.

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