

REVIVAL

Teacher: John Burton

Teaching Title: Wild Joy!

- I. Joy is a superpower!
 - a. "...for the joy of the LORD is your strength." (Nehemiah 8:10, ESV)
 - i. It means great emotion, great pleasure.
 - ii. Joy is a fruit, a result, a manifestation, an outcome of DEEP relationship with the Holy Spirit and powerful encounters in his presence.
 - b. Intimacy with God is mandatory if we are going to experience his power and presence.
 - i. To know God, in the depths of his personality, is incredible!
 1. John Piper- *we value most what we delight in most. God is most glorified when we are most satisfied in him.*
 - a. "You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore." (Psalm 16:11, ESV)
 - b. The idea here is to live our lives in the presence of God!
 - c. C.S. Lewis- Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition, when infinite joy is offered to us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in the slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.
 - i. As we continually and aggressively grow in God, we will discover the greatest, deepest and most overwhelming satisfaction comes as we are simply with him.
 - ii. Holy pleasure is a result of the infilling of the Holy Spirit.
 1. Unholy pleasures invite demonization.
 2. As a result of exposure to unholy entertainment, there is a generation of church people, young and old alike, who are demonized and may not even realize it. If they do, they likely blame something other than the demons they have partnered with for their entertainment. ~Eric Smith
- II. Fruits of the Spirit
 - a. We are in a series.
 - i. Last week love, this week joy, next week peace.
 - ii. You better enjoy this now because patience and self-control are on their way.
 - iii. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit." (Galatians 5:22–25, ESV)
- III. Five Steps To Wild Joy
 - a. Surrender
 - i. We can't have joy if we aren't free!
 - ii. Our sins and our separation from God make it impossible to enjoy God.

1. That's why Jesus came!
 2. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4:18–19, ESV)
 3. Best decision ever, not because of some hope of going to heaven, but because of how amazing life on earth really is!
 4. "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation." (Isaiah 12:3, ESV)
 5. When our savior was on his way to the earth, the angels declared—rejoice!
 - a. "And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." (Luke 2:10, ESV)
 - b. The arrival of Jesus brought joy.
 - c. The arrival of Jesus in someone's life brings joy!
- iii. Wildman
- iv. This brings us to the next point- we must trust God entirely in order to enjoy him.
- b. Faith & Trust
- i. We can accept Jesus into our lives, we can surrender, but if we don't trust him with everything, we can't truly enjoy him. There will be no joy.
 1. If we don't fully trust, we will be leery of him.
 2. That causes us to remain at a safe distance from him.
 3. This is why he told us from the very beginning to die to ourselves.
 - a. "Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." (Matthew 16:24–25, ESV)
 - i. It's one thing to surrender, to follow Jesus.
 - ii. It's another to deny ourselves, our sensibilities, our ideas, our dreams...and to trust God.
 - b. So many Christians live their entire lives trying to find life—if only they would lose their life and trust God- then their lives would be filled with wild joy!
 - c. "For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace." (Romans 8:5–6, ESV)
 - d. If we have set our minds on discovering human answers to life's challenges, we won't give room for God to bring a supernatural answers!
 - e. Heb 11:1 (NKJV)¹ Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

- it. There is no logical standing place between the two. Be satisfied with nothing less than a faith that swims in the deeps of divine revelation...
 - a. The way we see God, the way we make decisions, the way we perceive challenges will change as we stand on the Word.
 - b. Challenges can become thrilling instead of heavy.
 - c. Burden is light.
 - d. We can easily enjoy God as we devour his written word to us!
- ii. This leads us to the next key to wild joy.
- d. Worship & Prayer
 - 1. To get lost exalting God is amazing!
 - 2. The greatest part of the Christian life for me is prayer and worship!
 - 3. I am fanatically addicted to it!
 - 4. "Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!" (1 Chronicles 16:11, ESV)
 - 5. For many, prayer is the means to the end.
 - a. It should not be that way!
 - b. Being with God is the end!
 - 6. "Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving." (Colossians 4:2, ESV)
 - 7. Alfred Lloyd Tennyson: More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of.
 - 8. When asked how much time he spent in prayer, George Muller's reply was, "Hours every day. But I live in the spirit of prayer. I pray as I walk and when I lie down and when I arise. And the answers are always coming."
- ii. Truly enjoying God requires a supernatural life.
 - 1. It's in the place of worship, prayer and encounter where God overwhelms us and joy overtakes us.
 - 2. In his presence is the fullness of joy.
 - a. Presence = the face of God
- iii. Larry Sparks: There is a LIE circulating in modern Christianity—and it's being EXPOSED right now! The lie? "People don't want all of that weird supernatural 'Holy Spirit stuff.' They don't want people shaking, falling down, or speaking in tongues. They don't want hard-hitting, clear Bible Truth. All that stuff will surely turn them off and drive them away." Tell that to the countless people showing up, night after night, creating overflow crowds in churches across the Earth where the Gospel is being preached boldly, the clear Truth of Scripture is being clearly presented and the manifestation of the Holy Spirit is celebrated (not merely tolerated). Remember, on the Day of Pentecost it was not a "TED TALK" that brought in the multitudes; it was the sound of Holy Spirit outpouring and proclamation of the Gospel.
- e. Fiery Relationships

- i. In regard to relationships: Make sure there is a fire breather in the mix!
 1. Spend time with people who can't stop talking about God!
 2. In order to enjoy God always, we must hang with people that share our passion!
 - a. "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (Acts 2:42, ESV)
 - b. This is why it's so important to come together each week at church, to fellowship, to worship, to grow together!
 - c. "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." (Hebrews 10:24–25, ESV)
 - d. It's a critical element of life on earth- finding joy and life in relationships with other firebreathers.
 - e. People crave intimate relationships!

IV. Conclusion

- a. So, to enjoy God we simply pursue him!
 - i. Surrender
 - ii. Faith & Trust
 - iii. The Word of God
 - iv. Worship & Prayer
 - v. Relationships