

Advent || 12.17.23
We love you. Yes, you

Joy
enjoy | rejoice



Expectantly Wait Prophetically Activate

- **12/3, HOPE**
(The Prophecy Candle, purple);
- **12/10, PEACE**
(The Bethlehem Candle, purple);
- **12/17, JOY**
(The Shepherd's Candle, pink);
- **12/24, LOVE**
(The Angel's Candle, purple)
- **12/25, PRESENCE**
(The White Candle, He is here!)

Advent 2023



Psalm 16:8-11 approximately 1,000 years before Christ

- Because I set you, Yahweh, always close to me, my confidence will never be weakened, for I experience your wraparound presence every moment. 9 My heart and soul explode with joy—full of glory! Even my body will rest confident and secure. 10 For you will not abandon me to the realm of death, nor will you allow your Faithful One to experience corruption.
11 Because of you, I know the path of life, as I taste the fullness of joy in your presence. At your right side I experience divine pleasures forevermore!

- **Question: Who is the Christ Who dwells within the believer now**

Advent expectantly wait; prophetically activate

- Luke 1:41-42. At the moment her aunt [Elizabeth] heard Mary's voice, the baby within Elizabeth's womb jumped and kicked. And suddenly, Elizabeth was filled to overflowing with the Holy Spirit!
42 With a loud voice she prophesied with power: "Mary! You are a woman given the highest favor and privilege above all others, for your child is destined to bring God great delight..."
- Partner with Holy Spirit. Look up, chew on Luke 2:21-35 (Simeon)
- Partner with Holy Spirit. Look up, chew on Luke 2:36-40 (Anna)

Book of John

Jesus to disciples (including us), promising Holy Spirit

- vv. 15:9-11. "I love each of you with the same love that the Father loves me. You must continually let my love nourish your hearts. 10 If you keep my commands, you will live in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands, for I continually live nourished and empowered by his love. 11 My purpose for telling you these things is so that the joy that I experience will fill your hearts with overflowing gladness!"
- v. 16:24 "Until now you've not been bold enough to ask the Father for a single thing in my name, but now you can ask, and keep on asking him! And you can be sure that you'll receive what you ask for, and your joy will have no limits!"

Hebrews 12:2; Romans 14:17-18

- We look away from the natural realm and we focus our attention and expectation onto Jesus who birthed faith within us and who leads us forward into faith's perfection. His example is this: Because his heart was focused on the joy of knowing that you would be his, he endured the agony of the cross and conquered its humiliation, and now sits exalted at the right hand of the throne of God!
- For the kingdom of God is not a matter of rules about food and drink [or other things], but is in the realm of the Holy Spirit, filled with righteousness, peace, and joy. 18 Serving the Anointed One by walking in these kingdom realities pleases God and earns the respect of others.

One is not like the other

Happiness

- From soul (self)
- Emotional; synonym for joy
- Situational (mood, circumstance)
- Volatile (like RAM or Apps)
- Must be pursued, chosen
- Extrinsic or created
- Presence of pleasant

Biblical joy

- From Spirit (God)
- Existential; not same as happy
- In Christ; from God
- Permanent (like OS or BIOS)
- Always is; just receive
- Intrinsic; available 24X7
- Presence of God

Joy killers

Some surefire ways to drain God's joy. **Choices matter**

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| • Doubt | • Unhealthy content & imagery | • Processed foods |
| • Suspicion | • Antagonizing | • Sugar |
| • Cynicism | • Militant masculinity | • Energy drinks |
| • Criticism | • Enemy mindset (us vs. them) | • Alcohol |
| • Gossip | • Human good-&-evil mindset | • Weed |
| • Paint red flags white | • I / me / my / we mindset | • Other intoxicants |
| • Sarcasm | • Hurts, habits, hangups | • Blame shifting |
| • Manipulation | • Un-submission or rebellion | • Right fighting |
| • Avenging / revenge | • Lie / legend / spin | • Complaining |
| • Pharisee spirit | • Disrespect / disloyalty | • Murmuring |

Table Time discussion

1. Joy killers. John listed several. Which one(s) jumped out at you? What others could you add?
2. Share and compare one or more ways—things you do—to find the presence of the Lord that lead to experiencing His joy.
3. Tablemates:
 - a. Seek Holy Spirit;
 - b. Then to, for, over one another
 - c. Encourage, exhort, comfort; speak, pray, prophesy God's JOY, no matter the circumstances.

More and more in 2024!



