

# LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

## Joy

John 3:22-30

**Passages for further study:** Philippians 1 (or the whole book!!)

**Definition of Joy:** Having great pleasure in something. Brightened countenance, laughter, happiness, a feeling of euphoria (from Pastor John).

John said we all want to experience joy. The difference between worldly joy and Christian joy is what we base the joy on. The joy God designed us to have comes by the power of the Holy Spirit: it is a work of God in the soul. The Spirit works through Christ to save us and make us alive to the things of God.

We experience joy in greater measure as we trust in God's promises and obey God's commands by the power of the Holy Spirit.

### Questions

1. John identified one pitfall with regard to joy as a pessimism we engage in to self-protect from disappointments. To fight such pessimism, John prescribed fighting for faith in the promises of God. How is it going with believing in the promises of God?
2. The second pitfall John identified was hedonism, where you give yourself to earthly pleasure without thought of its rivalry to God. Hedonism twists God's good gifts to make them ultimate pursuits without regard to God. What are some pleasures you are prone to worshipping instead of God?

John focused on joy in the life of John the Baptist and by application in our lives through three main points. Joy in the:

#### 1) Exercise of our calling (John 3:27-28)

3. What are the different callings in your life (employee, spouse, parent, etc.)? How is it going with joyfully worshipping God in the different callings in your life?
4. John mentioned sharing our faith and mentoring someone else as aspects of the exercise of our calling as Jesus followers. Who do you believe you could reach (share) and teach (mentor) in your life right now? What is the next step you need to take in those relationships?

#### 2) Scope of our calling (John 3:27)

5. Whether we play a one-string instrument or a 40-string harp, God calls us to use the gifts He has given us to glorify Him. How is it going with maximizing the gift(s) God has given you? Where could you tangibly improve at this?  
(Passages to consider: Col. 3:23-24, Matt. 5:16, Matt. 25:14-30).

#### 3) Exaltation of Christ (John 3:29-30)

6. Can you say with John the Baptist that your joy is complete when Jesus is worshipped?
7. How is it going with living with a self-forgetful joy in Christ? A free delight because you are in relationship with and serving the God of the universe (Gal. 5:1)?