

# ***THE CHASE after God: Joy Robbers and Joy Restorers***

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

The world has a interesting way of describing Joy

- an emotion
- evoked by well-being, success, or good fortune
- the prospect of possessing what one desires.

And yet through tonight in the THE CHASE we want to contrast all of that!

**Joy is more accurately for us quality of life!**

**Quality of life that is grounded upon God himself.**

Joy robbers. Joy Suckers Joy  
deceivers Joy destroyers

All show up and we find ourselves then looking for the means of a return to joy!

Our purpose is to find the balance of restoration of peace of mind or joy when the joy Robbers show up?

## **II. JOY ROBBERS/ JOY RESTORERS**

### **A. WAITING AND TRUSTING THE LORD!**

David a subject matter expert on Joy robbers and joy returners said this:

I wait quietly before God,  
for my victory comes from him.  
2 He alone is my rock and my salvation,  
my fortress where I will never be shaken.  
  
3 So many enemies against one man—  
all of them trying to kill me.  
To them I'm just a broken-down wall

or a tottering fence.

4 They plan to topple me from my high position.

They delight in telling lies about me.  
They praise me to my face  
but curse me in their hearts. Interlude

5 Let all that I am wait quietly before God,  
for my hope is in him. Psalm 62:1-5

Can we accept as David said just above ago – that we are to wait before God!?

35 Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray. 36 Later Simon and the others went out to find him. 37 When they found him, they said, “Everyone is looking for you.”

38 But Jesus replied, **“We must go on to other towns as well, and I will preach to them, too. That is why I came.”** Mark 1:35-38

We must learn to trust God to get stuff done for us and to trust God that it is best to be done in His way and His timing!

38 As Jesus and the disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem, they came to a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. 39 Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord's feet, listening to what he taught. 40 But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, “Lord, doesn't it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me.”

41 But the Lord said to her, **“My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! 42 There is only**

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**one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her.” Luke 10:38-42**

If you are like Martha and you think that one of your goals is being disrupted or blocked even by your sister in the Lord (Mary here) we need to find that there is rest in God’s sovereign plan (Job 42:2; Isa 55:8-9)

We need to find a means of being more grateful to God for what He has given to me and NOT TO THEM

18 Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. 1 Thess 5:18

Never trusting God who says, He goes with me in the valley of death and comforts me (Psalm 23) will take your joy away!

Trust God to bring good out of situations/relationships as He defines good (Rom 8:28) true joy is really there!

Maybe you (with God’s discernment) can identify other specific joy robbers that sneak into your life.

Choose to look to God and be totally dependent on Him to return you to joy!

- The life of faith is meant to be a joyful existence.

Joy is part of the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22–23).

This joy is abiding and a sense of triumph we have been given in Jesus.

**The world sees joy as an emotion based on circumstances while God sees joy as a**

**choice, a state of being based on who God is.**

### **B. JOY STEALERS**

#### **1. AMBITION**

Ambition really is a double-edged sword.

Ambition cuts both ways.

Our ambition becomes less focused on the good that God has called us to accomplish and more focused on making ourselves look accomplished.

We will never be successful enough to fill the void in our hearts that only Jesus can fill. And that steals our joy.

#### **2. PERFECTIONISM**

God calls us to excellence. God doesn’t want us to give him our second best and justify it under a banner of grace.

The Church should have higher standards of excellence than the world where our mission is more important.

But God isn’t looking for perfection. He knows that we couldn’t do it if we tried.

Chasing some ideal of perfection is that we hope it will make us good enough. Or at least it will make us look good enough.

Perfection is a cruel taskmaster. And it steals our joy.

#### **3. BITTERNESS**

Bitterness often creeps in alongside our righteous anger

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When someone has genuinely wronged us, it is good and natural for us to be upset.

Bitterness makes us not only hate the actions a person did to us, but it makes us hate the actual person.

- through the lens of our hurt, always assuming the worst of them.

You do that enough, and eventually that's just how you look at everybody.

Bitterness makes us cynical. It makes the world grey. And that definitely steals your joy.

### **4. GUILT OR SHAME**

Guilt and shame can take over your life if you let them.

When guilt and shame take over, we read the bible and only see how it condemns the very actions that we seem to fall back into on a regular basis.

This is never what Jesus intended your life of holiness to look like.

Yes, Jesus wants you to pursue a life of purity, goodness, and moral virtue in his name.

But that only comes when you are connected to him.

And because of his grace, Jesus doesn't follow you around with a scorecard

You have no time to be joyful when you are busy beating yourself up.

Because of his grace, Jesus doesn't follow you around with a scorecard.

### **5. ENVY**

Comparison never leads to anything good.

You will also either be better or appear worse than that person, which the latter can lead to feeling of envy.

Envy makes us root against the well-being of other people. It sees everybody else as the enemy, as the competition.

Envy leaves no room for joy. It sees even someone else's joy as a reason to dislike or distrust them.

### **C. HOW TO FIGHT BACK with JOY RESTORERS**

Getting joy will involve getting rid of joy-stealers. But not only that. to be replaced with:

- something positive
- something life-giving
- something joy-producing.

We want to overcome with a JOY RESTORER!

#### **1. Selfless Love**

We were built for selfless love

This is what it looks like to follow Jesus.

23 You say, "I am allowed to do anything"[d]—but not everything is good for you. You say, "I am allowed to do anything"—but not everything is beneficial. 24 Don't be concerned for your own good but for the good of others. 1 Corinthians 10:23-24

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Being selfless believe it not brings joy to your life!

Joy in the journey is being about the Father's business! Being the hands and feet of Jesus!

It's like a machine.

- When it functions according to its purpose, everything is great.

Selfless love turns us away from our ungodly sense of ambition and perfectionism!

**Love focuses on others. And when we focus on others, we find joy.**

### **2. Radical Contentment**

We're never going to experience joy if we're constantly thinking about all the ways that we haven't gotten what we deserve.

we have been given far more than we deserve in the grace of Jesus.

- We need to cultivate a sense of radical contentment.
- We can be content no matter what our circumstances.
- We can be supernaturally be full of joy based on a trust and favor in God

11 Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. 12 I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. 13 For I can do everything through Christ,[a] who gives me strength. Phil 4:11-13

**Plain and simple, contentment brings joy.**

We're never going to experience joy if we're constantly thinking about all the ways that we haven't gotten what we deserve.

***God has restored you to a place where He sees only Jesus and therefore you are getting far more than you could have ever hoped for without Him!***

### **3. WILLFUL HOPE CHOOSE HOPE!**

Hope isn't something that just happens to us. We have to choose to hope.

We have a different kind of hope, because our hope is in Jesus.

And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us Romans 5:5

***Joy is the present enjoyment of the future hope we have in Jesus.***

He has promised that he will never leave us and never forsake us.

A life of hope is a life of joy. This is the life that Jesus wants for us.

Hope isn't something that just happens to us. We have to choose to hope.

### **III. CONCLUSION**

Joy in God is a peculiar kind of thing.

It not only honors God, but it also is a kind of pressure inside of us.

- It wants to be out.
- It wants to draw you in.

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This results that your joy in God becomes part of others joy in God.

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth” 3 John 4

We look forward to seeing you walk with the savior who loves you and wants you to have your joy restored!!!

The Holy Spirit works in you to bring you into a deeper, sweeter joy... and moreover for the sake of the world and His glory,

**Next two weeks – no class as I am in the UK. See you on 18 JUN 2025 where we look at FREE OF FEAR!!!**

