



Whatever
happened
to
Joy?

What we will be studying:

- ▶ Joy & Life In God's Spirit
- ▶ Joy & The Fact Of Forgiveness
- ▶ Joy & the Word of God
- ▶ Joy & The Life Of Prayer
- ▶ Joy & Living On Purpose
- ▶ Joy & Jesus With Me
- ▶ Joy & the God's Good Purposes
- ▶ Joy & Hope's Certainty
- ▶ Joy Is Our Lifestyle
- ▶ Joy & Our Present Groaning

Series Memory Verse

Romans 14:17

**For the kingdom of God is not
a matter of eating and
drinking, but of righteousness,
peace and joy in the Holy
Spirit,**

*What has happened to all
your joy?*

Galatians 4:15

Why joy matters

Whatever
happened
to
Joy?

Joy as an indicator:

Joy, in the believer, is an outward indicator of a supernatural, internal reality



A portrait of J. P. Moreland, a middle-aged man with a grey beard and glasses, wearing a blue and white striped button-down shirt. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and a path. On the right side of the image, there are several overlapping blue geometric shapes (triangles and polygons) that create a modern, abstract design.

J. P. Moreland
on *happiness*

www.boundless.org/faith/2004/why-happiness-isnt-a-feeling



According to ancient thought, happiness is a life well lived, a life that manifests wisdom, kindness and goodness. For the ancients, the happy life — the life we should dream about — is a life of virtue and character. Not only did Plato, Aristotle, the Church Fathers and medieval theologians embrace this definition, but Moses, Solomon and (most importantly) Jesus did, too. Sadly their understanding is widely displaced by the contemporary understanding of happiness defined as pleasure and satisfaction, a subjective emotional state associated with fleeting, egocentric feelings.



Contemporary happiness:

- ▶ Pleasure and satisfaction

Classical understanding:

- ▶ Virtue and character



Contemporary happiness:

- ▶ An intense feeling

Classical understanding:

- ▶ A settled tone



Contemporary happiness:

- ▶ Dependent on external circumstances

Classical understanding:

- ▶ Depends on internal state; springs from within



Contemporary happiness:

- ▶ Transitory and fleeting

Classical understanding:

- ▶ Fixed and stable



Contemporary happiness:

- ▶ Addictive and enslaving

Classical understanding:

- ▶ Empowering and liberating



Contemporary happiness:

- ▶ Irrelevant to one's identity, doesn't color the rest of life and creates false/empty self.

Classical understanding:

- ▶ Integrated with one's identity, colors rest of life and creates true/fulfilled self.



Contemporary happiness:

- ▶ Achieved by self-absorbed narcissism; success produces a celebrity.

Classical understanding:

- ▶ Achieved by self-denying apprenticeship to Jesus; success produces a hero.

The Source Of Our Joy

Psalm 16:8-9

I keep my eyes always on the Lord.

**With him at my right hand, I will not
be shaken.**

**Therefore my heart is glad and my
tongue rejoices;**

my body also will rest secure,

The Source Of Our Joy



Ezekiel 36:26

“ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.”

The Source Of Our Joy



- By virtue of our relationship with Christ, we have a source of Joy
- Joy is a mark of our sanctification

The Imperative Of Our Joy



1 Thessalonians 5:16
Rejoice always,

**Joy is an imperative, a
command, a duty and a
virtue**

Anxiety & Fear Are The Enemies Of Joy

Anxiety is a manifestation of the flesh

We all battle fear and anxiety

We all have “bad” days

We will absolutely have seasons of sorry and grief

“Blessed (Joyful) are those who mourn for they will be comforted”

Joy in mourning and in grief

Focus on the grounds and source of our Joy!

Focus on our newness through Christ

Focus on His Word and His promises

Focus on our future:

Proverbs 10:28

**“The prospect of the righteous is joy,
but the hopes of the wicked come to nothing.”**

Aligning my life with God's truth



Which of the passages read or Moreland comparisons do you find most revealing about your joy—or lack there of?

Want God to work on your joy?

Aligning my life with God's truth



What will you grasp onto that will reinvigorate your Joy?

What Scripture passages will renew your joy through seasons of mourning?

Will others see the outside indicator(Joy) of a supernatural internal reality?



For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit

Romans 14:17, *NIV*