

THE NEED FOR JOY

JULY 5, 2017

ACTS 5:17-29

A mighty miracle occurs. A supernatural jail break takes place and the Apostles are found preaching in the temple. The High Priest ignores the miracle, arrests them again, has them beaten and commands them not to speak in the Name of Jesus.

ACTS 5:40-42

The Apostles responded by rejoicing rather than complaining or expressing self pity. They maintained an attitude of joy even when facing persecution or going through trials.

PERSPECTIVES ON JOY

1. Jesus. **JOHN 16:20-22**
 - A. Their sorrow would be based on His death, which would be the source of the world's joy.
 - B. His resurrection would be their source for joy that no man could take from them. **JOHN 17:13**
2. Paul. **PHILIPPIANS 4:4**
 - A. Paul sang praises in prison after being beaten.
 - B. **1 THESSALONIANS 5:16** – He admonishes believers to rejoice always.
3. James. **JAMES 1:2**
 - A. James admonishes everyone to count it all joy in everything that could possibly come our way.
4. Peter. **1 PETER 4:12-14 (HCSB)**
 - A. Peter was among those imprisoned and beaten. He witnessed firsthand what maintaining a joyful attitude could do. If we want the Spirit of glory and of God to rest upon us, we must learn to rejoice when facing the trials of life.

CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT OF JOY

There's a difference between happiness and joy. Joy is internal and based on knowledge, whereas, happiness is external and based on circumstances. **PHILIPPIANS 4:11-13 (NIV)**

1. Joy found in the scriptures. **1 JOHN 1:4**
 - A. When Pharaoh's army drowned, when Samuel was born, when Saul was made king, when David killed Goliath, when the Ark was brought home, Christ was born, etc.....
2. Joy in salvation. **1 PETER. 1:8-9**
 - A. At Samaria. **ACTS 8:8** Salvation is all inclusive.
 - B. In Heaven. **LUKE 15:4-7**
3. Joy in Sorrow. **2 CORINTHIANS 6:10**
 - A. **2 CORINTHIANS 7:4** – In tribulation.
 - B. **JOHN 16:33**
4. Joy in winning souls. **PSALMS 126:5-6**
 - A. There is great joy when: A lost son comes home, a lost coin is found or a lost sheep returns.
5. Joy in service. **ISAIAH 65:14**
 - A. **DEUTERONOMY 28:47-48** – Serving the Lord joyful produces confidence to stand against enemy forces.

THE NEED FOR JOY

1. It promotes strength. **NEHEMIAH 8:10**
2. It promotes health. **PROVERBS 17:22 (TLB)**
3. It promotes glory. **1 PETER 4:12-14 (HCSB)**