



PROTOTYPE  
Part 7: "Joy"  
Sermon Small Group Notes  
Speaker: Pastor Dave Patterson

## USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

- This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. After considering the needs of your group, you may choose one of the following options:
  1. one section of questions
  2. one or two questions from each section
- Feel free to adapt the format to meet the needs of your group. If your group is mature and wants to dig deeper, add Scripture and ask suitable questions. Remember that this is only a guide.
- Personal application is key to everyone's growth and should be included in every discussion. When asked how he or she intends to apply a certain principle a group member may say, "I need to spend more time in the Bible and in prayer." It is important for you to help group members make applications that are more specific and commit to a specific plan of action by asking, for example, "How are you going to begin?" An example is to get up 30 minutes earlier each morning, spending 15 minutes reading the Bible and 10 minutes in prayer. Encourage each group member to be accountable to the group for personal progress at the next meeting.
- As the leader your goal is to help bring the group into a stimulating discussion that helps the members recognize their need for personal life change. Ultimately you want them to be willing to commit to change with accountability to the group. Accountability helps us to persevere in our commitments and achieve the blessings of success.

## INTRODUCTION

As we conclude this series PROTOTYPE we will consider a powerful aspect of the New Testament church that might be overlooked or misunderstood as a non-essential detail of scripture. And that is the element of JOY and what it produces in the life of a believer and the effectiveness of the Church

## MESSAGE

[Acts 2:46-47]

*They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals **with great joy** and generosity.<sup>47</sup> all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people.*

The formula for Joy

1. Worship
2. Presence
3. Joy
4. Strength

We are the advertisement of God to our city... How are we representing?  
Remember it is GOOD NEWS!

JOY is Not Happiness!

Happiness = temporary emotional state based on temporary circumstances...

Joy = is spiritual and is beyond our ability to create or sustain!

Definition: JOY

to be filled with exultation- elation & triumph GRK –includes; to jump

The Biblical Meaning and understanding of Joy;

- ...An outward sign of inward faith in the promises of God
- ...Evidence of Spiritual maturity
- ...A path you choose to travel each day
- Joy Is the sum and substance of emotional health
- Joy is the antithesis of depression
- Joy is the fruit of the Holy Spirit
- Joy is the essence of God;

**To be filled with God is to be filled with Joy!**

**How do we live with high levels of Joy?**

**1. JOY is a product of knowing I am right with God**

[Romans 4:7-8]

*“Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sins are put out of sight. Yes, what joy for those whose record the LORD has cleared of sin.”*

[Colossians 1:12-14]

***Giving joyful thanks*** to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. <sup>13</sup> For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

The revelation of being "right with God" is not a one time event but is a life that walks with an extra spring in your step because even when everything around you is falling apart you know that the only thing that really matters is "RIGHT"!

## **2. Joy is the product of living a generous life (“Christ-centered and others-focused”)**

Generosity & Joy are interchangeable

- Generosity releases Joy
- Joy releases generosity!

*The more you give the more joy you experience and the more joy is filling your life the more you want to be a generous person! ... Because Joy and generosity are THE ESSENCE OF GOD!*

[Acts 2:46]

*They worshiped together each day...**with great joy and generosity** all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people.*

[2 Corinthians 8:2]

*In the midst of a very severe trial their **overflowing joy**, in the midst of extreme poverty, welled up in rich generosity.*

## **3. Joy is the product of suffering for the right reasons!**

Prototype Pattern of Joy:

1. Joy and boldness
2. Advance the kingdom
3. Confrontation and chaos
4. Persecution / push back
5. More Joy

Example:

[ACTS 5:41-42]

*They called in the apostles and had them flogged. Then they ordered them never again to speak in the name of Jesus, and they let them go.*

*The apostles left the high council **rejoicing (filled with joy)** that God had counted them worthy to suffer disgrace for the name of Jesus<sup>42</sup> And every day, in the Temple and from house to house, they continued to teach and preach this message: "Jesus is the Messiah."*

[1 Thessalonians 1:6]

*You became imitators of us and of the Lord when you accepted the message that came from the Holy Spirit **with joy in spite of great suffering.***

If you are on task for God you will experience Joy in the trials of life.

#### **4. Joy will cost us something / the exchange program**

[Isaiah 61:3]

*The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me... to provide for those who grieve in Zion— (the gathering of believers) to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.*

If we are to experience the "Beauty", the "Joy", or the "Garment of Praise" it requires us to bring our ashes (the remains of our messed up life) and our mourning and our spirit of despair to the One who can exchange them.

When we realize that we are the very trophy's of God's grace and mercy we will experience greater levels of Joy.

#### **5. Joy is a product of being actively involved in the rescue!**

[Acts 8]

<sup>1</sup> *Saul was one of the witnesses, and he agreed completely with the killing of Stephen.*

*A great wave of persecution began that day, sweeping over the church in Jerusalem; and all the believers except the apostles were scattered through the regions of Judea and Samaria. <sup>2</sup> (Some devout men came and buried Stephen with great mourning.) <sup>3</sup> But Saul was going everywhere to destroy the church. He went from house to house, dragging out both men and women to throw them into prison.*

<sup>4</sup> *But the believers who were scattered preached the Good News about Jesus wherever they went. <sup>5</sup> Philip, for example, went to the city of Samaria and told the people there about the Messiah. <sup>6</sup> Crowds listened intently to Philip because they were eager to hear his message and see the miraculous signs he did. <sup>7</sup> Many evil*

*spirits were cast out, screaming as they left their victims. And many who had been paralyzed or lame were healed. **8So there was great joy in that city.***

The Prototype church was all about being involved in the rescue of broken lives, reaching people far from God & advancing the message of Grace to those who had never heard it.

The Joy of the Bride Groom is in the rescue of His Bride.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. If you were the only walking billboard for the Good News of Jesus would the church grow? How are you representing the Good News?
2. How is happiness different from joy? Share some short lived times of happiness and some enduring times of overwhelming joy.
3. Have you experienced suffering that has produced Joy? What did God do for you?
4. What has God exchanged for you? Have you seen the results of the beautiful exchange? Let's hear it... It's time to "Testify" what has God given you for your past failures, your mourning, your despair?
5. Who partnered with God to see you rescued? Who are the people you are partnering with God to rescue
6. Pray through Isaiah 61:3

*The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me... to provide for those who grieve in Zion— (the gathering of believers) to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.*