

Sunday, 27 February 2022

Rev. Gary Crowl - The Importance of Joy in the Life of the Christian

Every believer must understand the importance of living a joy filled life. Today we will learn why a joy filled life is important, how to live a joy filled life, and the benefits of a joy filled life.

1. Romans 14:17 - For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. (KJV)
 - a. Romans 6:4

 - b. Eph. 4:24

2. Spiritual Joy is not optional for the Christian – Romans 14:17
 - a. 1/3 of the Kingdom is Joy - Without this Joy we lack the spiritual motivation and spiritual strength necessary to live the Christian life.
 - b. Joy is not the result of the absence of problems, it is not connected to feelings, or to what you have or do not have materially.
 - c. Joy is a product of the recreated human spirit that has the life and the nature of God within it. Comes from within - it is a fruit of our recreated spirit

3. The Christian life cannot be lived the way it should be lived without this kind of Joy.
 - a. All of us will experience disappointments and opportunities to become discouraged in life.
 - b. If we live our lives from our emotions – every day will be different – happy, sad, fearful, depressed.
 - c. We must strengthen our spirit with God's Word – change our thinking so that our spiritual nature dominates or controls our day-to-day life.

4. The importance of Joy in the Life of the Christian
 - a. As Christians - what we have and experience in life is connected to our spiritual health.
 - b. Proverbs 4:23 - Guard your heart more than anything else, because the source of your life flows from it. (GW)

5. Why is Joy so important - How does God's Joy help us in life?
 - a. A joy filled Heart gives us strength in times of trouble
 1. James 1:2 - My brothers count *it* all joy when you fall into various trials....., (LITV)

 2. Neh. 8:10 - Today is holy to our Lord, so don't be sad. The joy that the LORD gives you will make you strong." (GNB)

 3. Luke 8:13 - Some people are like seeds on rocky soil. They welcome the word with joy whenever they hear it, but they don't develop any roots. They believe for a while, but when their faith is tested, they abandon it. (GW)

- b. A Joy filled life is a Healthy Life
 - 1. Prov. 17:22 - A joyful heart is good medicine, but depression drains one's strength. (GW)
 - 2. Prov. 15:13 - A cheerful heart brings a smile to your face; a sad heart makes it hard to get through the day. (message)
- 6. How does living a joy-filled, joy-controlled life change you?
 - a. It strengthens you when you experience challenges in life
 - b. It helps produce health in your body and mind
 - c. Joy is like any other spiritual reality - it operates best when it is activated. It is activated by what we believe and what we say - When we act on what God's Word says - then we experience what God's Word says.

Discussion Questions:

- 1. Why is living a joy-filled life important?
- 2. How can we live a joy-filled life?
- 3. What are the benefits of a joy-filled life?