

Living for God



1 Peter 4:1-11

You show me the path of life. In your presence
there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are
pleasures forevermore. ^{NRS}

Psalm 16:11

You have turned my mourning into dancing;
you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed
me with joy, ^{NRS}

Psalm 30:11



Joy

We Can't Live for God Until we
Find the Joy in Living for God

We Can't Find the Joy in Living for
God until We Try Living for God



His master said to him, 'Well done,
good and trustworthy slave; you
have been trustworthy in a few
things, I will put you in charge of
many things; enter into the joy of
your master.'^{NRS}

Matthew 25:21



How many of us can truly say that we have an inner, ever abiding joy, that is present, even through tough times.
CAN YOU?

How to Enjoy God

When we live to glorify God, He responds by giving us overwhelming joy. “Well,” you say, “I have a tough life. I just don’t have any joy.” May I suggest an answer? Start glorifying God.

Joy does not necessarily always make sorrow, discouragement, pain, and failure go away, but Christians can experience supernatural joy even in the midst of those things. In fact sin is ultimately the only thing that can steal Christians’ joy. When our joy begins to fade, it is a sure sign of encroaching sin or unbelief. What can we do in times like that? Get down on our knees and confess the sin in our lives. We need to pray with David, “Restore to me the joy of Your salvation” (Psalm 51:12). Then we yield to the Holy Spirit, and joy returns.

Jesus desires that His joy remain in us (John 15:11). His joy that we know in part now is what we will know perfectly in heaven. Perhaps the greatest promise in all the Bible is 1 Thessalonians 4:17: “We shall always be with the Lord.” Now that’s joy!

Peter Has Told Us All About This Joy

A people set apart by and for God, into a living hope through good times and bad. Saved by the Lord Jesus Christ. By grace made holy. Blessed with the very presence of God and the ability to receive God's Living, life giving Word. Afforded the great privilege to know the goodness of the Lord.

God has made it known, that the people of God are a spiritual temple, founded and supported by Jesus Christ who is the cornerstone. God's people are strangers in a foreign land, called to live kingdom lives among those whom God wishes to draw and to save.

We are God's servants, at times suffering yet greatly blessed because "By His Wounds We Are Healed". We recognize our inherited blessing, and the joy of that blessing compels us to bless others. We are blessed to be a blessing, walking through this world for God's glory, as living breathing sacraments, as outward signs of God's inward grace, instituted by Christ for the sanctification of the world.

Now That's Joy!

If This Joy Is Missing We Are
Not Living Our Lives for God

Joy Is a By-product Of A Life
Lived for God?

Why Does this Joy Seem to Be Missing At Times



Stepping
Stones

Remember...

We Can't Live for God Until we
Find the Joy in Living for God

We Can't Find the Joy in Living for
God until We Try Living for God

How Then Shall We Live?

A Fundamental Change in Lifestyle

Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh,
arm yourselves also with the same
intention (for whoever has suffered in the
flesh has finished with sin), so as to live
for the rest of your earthly life no longer
by human desires but by the will of God.

You have already spent enough time in
doing what the Gentiles like to do, living in
licentiousness, passions, drunkenness,
revels, carousing, and lawless idolatry. ^{NRS}

1 Peter 4:1-3

Want Joy? Focus On the Will of God



...so as to live for the rest of your earthly
life no longer by human desires but by the
will of God.

Know Joy
Live for God

Want Joy? Stop Wasting Your Time

You have already spent enough time in doing what the Gentiles like to do, living in licentiousness, passions, drunkenness, revels, carousing, and lawless idolatry.



Know Joy
Live for God

Your Old Friends Will Be Shocked



They are surprised that you no longer join them in the same excesses of dissipation, and so they blaspheme. But they will have to give an accounting to him who stands ready to judge the living and the dead.

Want Joy? Live In the Spirit

For this is the reason the gospel was proclaimed even to the dead, so that, though they had been judged in the flesh as everyone is judged, they might live in the spirit as God does.

Know Joy
Live for God



But, we might say...

I live for God...

I try to focus on the will of God

I'm not, "living in licentiousness, passions, drunkenness, revels, carousing, and lawless idolatry."

My friends are mostly Christians

I seek to live in the spirit as God does

But, Do We Know the Joy?

If not, what's missing?

Peter gives us some answers.



It Starts
With a
Decision

The Discipline of a Relationship With God

Discipline Ourselves...

The end of all things is near;
therefore be serious and discipline
yourselves for the sake of your
prayers. ^{NRS}

1 Peter 4:7

Love One Another...

Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. ^{NRS}

1 Peter 4:8

Be Hospitable...

Be hospitable to one another without complaining. ^{NRS}

1 Peter 4:9

Serve Like Stewards of God's Grace...



Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. ^{NRS}

1 Peter 4:10

Speaking and Serving in God's Name

Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

NRS

1 Peter 4:11

God Talk...

Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God;



Empowered Service to the Glory of God...

whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ.

Doxology

To him belong the glory and
the power forever and ever.
Amen.

Know the Joy
Live for God

Five Aspects of a Joyous Life Lived for God

Discipline yourselves...

Love One Another...

Be Hospitable...

Serve As Stewards of God's Grace...

Speak and Serve in God's Name

We Know Joy
As We Live for God

Let Us Pray

