

A CELEBRATION OF JOY  
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A Good Maxim for Life:

Take God seriously but don't take yourself so seriously!

Joy: What It Isn't

- It's not from the outside
- It's not the absence of difficulty
- It's not limited to here on earth

1. Joy is the revitalizing of the soul.

*A joyful heart is good medicine,  
But a broken spirit dries up the bones.  
Proverbs 17:22*

- Joy comes from the inside.
- Laughter is the best medicine.

2. Joy is the result of difficulty.

*Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials.*

*James 1: 2*

- We all have problems; we can all have joy.
- Joy is the gift that keeps on giving!

3. Joy is the reaction in heaven when someone responds to the Gospel.

*There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents, than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.*

*Luke 15: 7*

- Joy is eternal.
- God is interested in the severe sinner, even if the self righteous are not!

NEXT STEPS:

- I received Jesus Christ as my personal Savior today
- I recommitted my life to Christ today
- I resolve to practice joy in my heart, no matter what the circumstances may be.
- I recognize I need to take myself less seriously.



**Lesson Aim:** To remind people that true joy comes from within, even in the middle of struggles.

**Prayer:** Open in prayer asking for the Holy Spirit to show you how to find joy in all the things in life.

**Icebreaker:** What is a hobby or activity that makes you happy?

1. Read James 1:2. Why are we to consider it pure joy whenever we face trials of many kinds?
2. Considering a trial you have experienced, what pressures did it bring on your faith?
3. What wisdom did you gain through the experience?

4. Why do you think so many people spend more time praying when trials are present than when not? Is this a good thing? Why?
5. If joy is absent in your life, how can you seek and find it? How would you guide another to find joy? How would you describe "Joy" to another person?

Weekly Memory Verse:

*James 1:2. Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds.*