

Session 3 God's Prescription for Joy

I. LIVING IN THE JOY OF JESUS

- A. How can you live in the reality of God's presence - in the fullness of His joy? Is it possible to live in the reality of the promises of God's Word, which belong to you as a believer in Christ? Is it possible to live in God's Kingdom, where His righteousness, peace, and joy rule and reign (Rom. 14:17)?

Psalm 16:11 In Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forever more.

- B. In Psalm 100 God beckons you to enter into the superior reality of His Kingdom, His presence – where all things are possible in and through Him.

Matthew 19:26 ...but with God all things are possible.

- C. Because your heavenly Father, sent His Son Jesus Christ into this world to die for your sins and to give you His righteousness, you are able to boldly come into God's presence by the blood of Jesus. This is the new and living way that God has provided for you to come into His presence.

Hebrews 10:19-23 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith... 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

II. REPENT AND SEE JESUS

- A. In order to be able to enter fully and wholeheartedly into God's presence, His Kingdom, for every aspect of your life, you must repent. When Jesus came into this world, He brought the reality of heaven with Him, saying:

Matthew 4:17 Jesus said, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

- B. The moment you invited Jesus Christ into your heart, your spirit man was made into the image and likeness of God. (2 Cor. 5:17) Your repentance from sin and faith in Jesus brought a radical transformation in your life. You were justified; you were made "just-as-if" you had never sinned. (Rom.5:1)

- C. Sanctification, bringing your soul and body, into the dominion of the Lordship of Jesus Christ, occurs through your ongoing repentance. This process of sanctification will occur throughout your life as you cooperate with His grace.

- D. Repentance goes beyond feeling regret or sorrow for what you have or have not said or done. It involves a quality decision where you actually change your thoughts and resultant emotions to come into alignment with Jesus' thoughts and emotions, as revealed by the Word of God.
- E. Repentance calls you to cross over from your way (your ungodly – sinful - thoughts, emotions and actions) and move towards or into God's way (His thoughts, emotions, and actions).

Hebrews 6:1 ...repentance from dead works....faith towards God

- F. As believers in Christ, repentance calls you to cross over from the Law and into God's grace, into God's Son - Jesus Christ.

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

- G. When you change your limited perspective to God's perspective on reality, as revealed in His Word and by His Spirit, you will be able to encounter God's presence, His Kingdom, in new and refreshing ways. Moreover, you will be able to abide in Christ in the heavenly places, releasing His presence, His Kingdom, wherever you go just like Jesus did.
- H. Testimony – Kevin Dedmon, “Unlocking Heaven”, Chapter 5
- I. In order to fulfill God's commands in Psalm 100 fully, you will need to repent, to change the way you think about God – Who He is and who you are to Him and in Christ. Repentance enables you to move from the duty of Psalm 100 to the delight of Psalm 100.

III. 7 KEYS TO JOY-FILLED LIVING

- A. In Psalm 100 God has given to you a 7-step action plan for joy-filled living, which is His prescription for your life. This action plan will help you to live the life God purposed for you to live with the fullness of His joy.

Proverbs 17:22 A merry heart does good, like medicine...

- B. The Psalm 100 actions are for those who desire to not only enter into God's presence, but to abide there through His Son Jesus Christ. Once you make this quality decision of following the Psalm 100 commands, you will end up experiencing a deep heart-felt joy unmatched by anything the world could ever offer.

Psalm 16:11 ... in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

- C. King David had a passion for God's presence – His Kingdom. His passion propelled him into a lifestyle of worship. When David became King, one of the first things He did was have the ark of the covenant, the place where God's presence was known to dwell, brought into the city of Jerusalem where he lived.

1. When the ark of the covenant arrived, he set up worship round the clock 24-7, training the priests to worship God, so that the entire nation of Israel could enter into God’s presence.
2. Psalm 100 – shouting, serving and singing to the Lord with joy, thanking, praising and blessing His name – became a way of life for the nation of Israel under the reign of King David.

D. Declare Psalm 100 out loud with emphasis on the 7 keys to joy-filled living.

Note: The seven keys are shaded gray. The words of joy or implied words of joy are underlined. The object of our joy-filled actions is the LORD; there are 11 pronouns for Lord in these 5 verses, along with LORD mentioned 4 times and God one time. The truths about God are italicized.

- 1 **Make** a joyful **shout** to the LORD, all you lands!
- 2 **Serve** the LORD with gladness;
Come before His presence with (joyful) singing.
- 3 **Know** that the LORD, He is God;
*It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;
 We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.*
- 4 **Enter** into His gates with thanksgiving,
 (Enter) And into His courts with praise.
Be thankful to Him, and **ble**ss His name.
- 5 (**Know**) *For the LORD is good;
 His mercy is everlasting,
 And His truth endures to all generations.*

7 Keys	Action Verb	Expression of Joy	God is the source/foundation of all joy.
	Make a shout	A joyful	The Lord
2.	Serve	With gladness	The Lord
3.	Come Singing	With joyful	His presence
4.	Know (yada)		Truths about God: <i>3 He is God; He made us; We are His people; and we are His sheep 5 For the Lord is good; merciful, faithful</i>
5.	Enter	With thanksgiving With praise	His gates His courts
6.	Be thankful	(implied joy)	Him
7.	Bless	(implied joy)	His name

IV. JESUS DELIGHTS IN KNOWING GOD

- A. The foundational key for entering and abiding or dwelling in God's presence, where the fulness of joy can be experienced, is "knowing God." The more you know God – Your heavenly Father and His Son Jesus Christ - the more you will experience His joy. And the more you know and partake of His joy, the more you will find yourself expressing yourself with shouting, singing, and serving Him with the very joy that He has given to you.

Psalm 103:3 Know that the Lord, He is God...

- B. "To know", in Hebrew is "yada." Jesus gives us the supreme example what knowing God (John 17:25) looks like. God knew Jesus so well that He entrusted Jesus with "all things."
Matthew 11:27 Jesus said, "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."
John 17:7 Jesus said, ... "Now they have known that all things, which You have given Me, are from You."

- C. When you look at all the supernatural things Jesus accomplished in His life, you can appreciate the type of relationship God and Jesus had.

John 5:30 Jesus said, *I can of Myself do nothing... I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.*

- D. Jesus delighted in knowing that His Father was with Him and that without His Father that He could do nothing. Jesus delighted Himself in knowing God – knowing what His Father was saying and knowing what His Father was doing and then saying and doing it.

John 5:19 Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.

John 8:28 -29 I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. And He who sent Me is with Me.

- E. The "knowing" took on such depth that they were "ONE" – ONE in thought, attitude, word, and deed. The way that Jesus knew His Father is what the Godhead desires for your life.

John 10:30 I and My Father are one.

John 17:21 Jesus prayed, "that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me."

- F. Jesus died on the cross as your substitute and was raised up to sit at the right hand of God so that you could be saved. And the purpose for your salvation is to have everlasting life.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

- G. Jesus defines everlasting life in John 17:3 as “knowing God the Father and Jesus Christ.”
John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom You have sent.
- H. If you receive salvation – the forgiveness of all your sins and even other aspects of your salvation – but don't value “knowing God” then you are missing out on the real purpose for your salvation. Too many people are struggling in this life, living a life without genuine joy, because they are not developing a relationship with God – they are not getting to “know God”.
2 Peter 1: 2-4 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

V. KNOWING GOD'S PSALM 100 WAYS

- A. Psalm 100 calls you to know God. This involves not just knowing truths about God with your mind, but to know God's Truth deep within your heart, so that you become one with God – one with His Truth, His Word.
- B. Knowing God is given to you through the power of the Holy Spirit – God revealing God to you. You can't get this knowledge on your own, but you can pray for it for yourselves and for others.
Ephesians 1:17-21 is a Holy Spirit inspired prayer for knowing God.
17 ...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened...19 (know) the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe...
- C. Psalm 100 invites you into knowing God - knowing His ways. You and I need to understand God's ways. When Psalm 100 calls you to sing and shout, giving God thanks and praise, it is showing you God's ways.
Exodus 33:13 Moses prayed, “Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight.
Psalm 103:7 He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel.

VI. KNOWING GOD = KNOWING THE WORD = JOY

- A. George Muller was a Christian evangelist and oversaw an orphanage in England in early 1800's. George Muller: “I saw more clearly than ever, that the first great and primary business to which I ought to attend every day was, to have my soul happy in the Lord. The first thing to be concerned about was not, how much I might serve the Lord, how I might glorify the Lord;

but how I might get my soul into a happy state, and how my inner man may be nourished... I saw that the most important thing I had to do was to give myself to the reading of the Word of God and to meditation on it.”

B. “Memory Lane” from Psalm 1

Psalm 1 declares the Truth that George Muller discovered about reading and meditating on God's Word.

Psalm 1:2 But, his delight is in the law of the LORD (Word of God), ***and in His law he meditates day and night.*** (Delight = joy, happiness, pleasure)

C. “Memory Lane” from Psalm 103

The knowledge of Christ was revealed to you in Psalm 103:3-5, so you could see 5 aspects of Who God is as revealed through His Son Jesus Christ: 1) WHO forgives all your sin 2) WHO heals all your diseases 3) WHO redeems your life from destruction 4) WHO crowns your life with love and mercy 5) WHO satisfies your mouth with good things. All of these benefits are for the purpose of you being able to experience the life of Christ, the fulness of His joy, the fulness of having your youth restored as an eagle.