

“That Elusive Thing Called Joy”

* What enters your mind when you hear the word “joy”?

I. Noting Some Principles about Joy

A. Potential Definition:

1. Intense and especially ecstatic or exultant happiness. See Synonyms at **pleasure**. The expression or manifestation of such feeling. **2.** A source or an object of pleasure or satisfaction: *their only child, their pride and joy*.v. **joyed, joy-ing, joys**.v. intr. To take great pleasure; rejoice.v. tr. *Archaic*. **1.** To fill with ecstatic happiness, pleasure, or satisfaction. **2.** To enjoy
2. Joy is a mental attitude produced by the Holy Spirit of God as you, the believer in Christ enjoy tremendous fellowship with the God of the universe because of your position in Christ

B. The Sphere of Rejoicing is in the _____

1. Rejoicing is to be the _____ of Christian living
2. God's joy – as produced by the Holy Spirit signifies inner emotional harmony and peace and is always based on recognizing and resting in _____
3. God's joy does not come from a favorable set of _____
4. God's joy is the result of _____ that the _____ and _____ of God are _____ and will not _____
5. God's joy is based on the Biblical principle of _____
6. The joy of the unbeliever is associated with _____ circumstances or _____
7. The joy of the unbeliever is always _____

8. Rejoicing in the Lord is associated with being in the _____ of God

9. Rejoicing in the Lord is a _____ you must make

II. Noting Some Components to Experiencing God's Joy

* What are some key components to experiencing Joy in the Lord?

- a. Being rightly related to God through His _____ (Jer 15:16)
- b. _____ in Christ, His Word and His Love (John 15:1-11)
- c. Being rightly related to God through _____ (John 16:23-24)
- d. Being rightly related to God through _____ (1John 1:3-4)

* What are some examples of rejoicing in spiritual realities?

- a. Suffering for Christ's sake (Act 5:17-41; 1 Peter 4:12-14)
- b. The accurate preaching of the gospel (Phil 1:12-18)
- c. When someone gets saved (Acts 8:39)
- d. When believers are grounded in and stabilized in the truth (Colossians 2:5)
- e. The privilege of ministering to others (1 Thess 2:18-20)
- f. When believers respond to and walk according to truth (3 John 1:3-4)
- g. When believers minister to and comfort one another (2 Cor 7:6-7,13; Phil 4:10)
- h. When you have the opportunity to minister to others (Phil 2:17)

*Are you rejoicing in the Lord?

* What does this mean to you?