

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Oh, for Joy!!

What brings you joy?

- *A winding, unencumbered two lane country road on a sunny day*
- *Just the thought of it puts a smile on my face & joy in my heart*

What lights your heart up?

- *Watching a beautiful Sunset?*
- *Digging in the garden in spring?*
- *Your favorite music or a good book?*
- *People you love freely enjoying each other?*
- *The smell of fresh bread coming out of the oven?*
- *Children opening presents on Christmas morning?*
- *Sitting on a beach log watching & hearing the surf roll in?*
- *Being in a boat or standing in a stream with a line in the water?*

*All of those & many more are **gifts from God** for you to enjoy*

- *They flow **from Him** to us*

Ecclesiastes 2:26, For God gives wisdom and knowledge and joy to a man who is pleasing in His sight

Zephaniah 3:17,

*“The Lord your God in your midst,
The Mighty One, will save;
He will rejoice over you with gladness,
He will quiet you with His love,
He will rejoice over you with singing.”*

Psalms 16:11,

You will show me the path of life;
In Your presence is fullness of joy;
At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

.....
Does *our* joy in *His* love ever fade?

- *Do worldly woes overshadow our lives?*
- *Do they rob us of His joy in us & through us?*

.....
James 1:2, My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials

- ***How does that feel? Really***

.....
*We can be tempted to live as if **joy is a response** to what happens to us*

- *Rather than being **what happens through us...***
- *To whatever circumstances we experience*

.....
Joy is a choice

- *Not just a feeling following experience*

.....
Luke 2:8-10, Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, **I bring you good tidings of great joy** which will be to all people.

- *These were **poor people in hard circumstances***
- ***Who God announced the ultimate joy to first!***
- *Do you think their circumstances improved?*

.....
Vs. 11-14, For **there is born to you** this day in the city of David **a Savior, who is Christ the Lord**. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe

wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”
And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude
of the heavenly host praising God and saying:
“Glory to God in the highest, And on
earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

.....
James 1:2, My brethren, **count it all joy** when you
fall into various trials

.....
Acts 5:40-41, When they had **called for the
apostles and beaten them**, they commanded that
they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let
them go. So they departed from the presence of
the council, **rejoicing that they were counted
worthy to suffer shame for His name.**

.....
Acts 16:22-25, Then the multitude rose up together
against them; and the magistrates tore off their
clothes **and commanded them to be beaten with
rods**. And when they had laid many stripes on
them, they threw them into prison, commanding
the jailer to keep them securely. Having received
such a charge, he put them into the inner prison
and fastened their feet in the stocks. But at
midnight **Paul and Silas were praying and singing
hymns to God**, and the prisoners were listening to
them.

- *Earthquake, cells open, chains off...*
- *Jailer and his family are saved...*
- *City church is expanded with government favor*

.....
Do we rejoice before God's favor falls?

- *That's not often my first response*
- *So, am I improving? Do I choose to?*

.....
James 1:2-4, My brethren, count it all joy when you
fall into various trials, **knowing** that the testing of
your faith produces patience. But **let patience
have its perfect work**, that you may be perfect and
complete, lacking nothing.

.....
Philippians 3:10, that I may know Him and
the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of
His sufferings

- *I freely admit I am challenged by that*

.....
Romans 8:28-29, And we know that all things work
together for good to those who love God, to
those who are the called according
to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also
predestined **to be conformed to the image of His
Son**

.....
Hebrews 12:1-2, Therefore we also, since we are
surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us
lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily
ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race
that is set before us, **looking unto Jesus**, the author
and finisher of our faith, **who for the joy that was
set before Him** endured the cross, despising the
shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the
throne of God.

.....
Romans 15:13, Now may the God of hope **fill you
with all joy** and peace in believing, that you may
abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

.....
1 Peter 1:6-9, In this you greatly rejoice, though
now for a little while, if need be, you have
been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness
of your faith, being much more precious than gold
that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be
found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation
of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you
love. Though now you do not see Him, yet
believing, **you rejoice with joy inexpressible** and
full of glory, **receiving** the end of your faith—the
salvation of your souls.

.....
Joy to the world!

- **The LORD has come!!**
- **Let earth receive her King!!!**

.....
They wanted their king to overrule the Romans

- **He did... but in His Kingdom, not theirs**

.....
Your kingdom come.

Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven...