

Biblical Joy in the COVID Pandemic

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Key Truth: The Bible teaches us that Joy is both God's Command and God's Gift.

There has been so much fear, frustration, anger, even hatred expressed during the last year and a half of the COVID pandemic. Sometimes we might be tempted to just throw up our hands and go find a hole to crawl into. However, God calls us to engage in our world with the gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit. This sometimes requires a recalibration—an infusion of Joy. What does the Bible teach us about Joy?

DISCUSS

Read **1 Peter 1:3-9** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon on **"Biblical Joy in the COVID Pandemic."**

DIG IN

1. Joy is a Command of God

Read Psalm 32:11; Matthew 5:12; Philippians 4:4: What do these verses tell us about the priority God places on Joy? Can you think of other commands to rejoice?

In what ways is God's command to rejoice beneficial to us?

Why is it so hard to obey this command?

2. Joy is a Promise of God.

Read Psalm 30:4-5 and John 16:22: According to these verses, when does God's promise of joy come? What does this tell us about Joy?

3. Joy is a Response to God.

Can you give examples of God's grace that produces a joyful response in the believer?

4. Joy is a Gift of God.

Read Nehemiah 12:43: What were the circumstances surrounding God's gift of Joy to the Israelites? In what ways does God cause his people to rejoice?

In what ways can we receive and experience the Joy promised and given to us by God?

DO

In what ways will you put what you've learned into practice this week?