

The Joy of the Lord Study Questions

“The joy of the Lord is my strength.” Nehemiah 8:10. How many Christians today actually know this joy from experience? It is certainly God’s intention for His people that we would know His joy.

People often confuse joy with happiness. Biblically, the two are not the same. Joy is a more permanent feeling, a quality of life not affected by circumstances. Happiness tends to be temporary and is based upon what is happening in our lives at any given time.

If you lack joy, please ask God to show you how to acquire it as you go through this lesson. If you do have joy, please pray as Paul did, that your joy would be complete as you work through this lesson.

1. Look up and record the dictionary definition of joy to discover what the world thinks joy is.

2. Look up and record the dictionary definition of happy.

3. John Mac Arthur defines joy like this: “Spiritual joy is not related to circumstances. It is a gift from God to those who believe the gospel of Christ, being produced in them by the Holy Spirit, because they receive and obey the Word of God, mixed with trials, and keep their focus on eternal glory.”

A. Based on this definition, how are our circumstances related to our joy?

B. How does a person receive joy and from whom?

C. What role does the Word of God play in our joy?

D. Where will our focus be when we have joy?

E. Does the Holy Spirit live in you to produce joy? _____

4. Christian joy is rooted in our salvation. According to the following verses, who is the source of salvation?

Psalm 149:4-“ For the LORD takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with salvation.”

Romans 1:16- “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

5. Isaiah 12:3 says, “With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.” In his commentary, Matthew Henry says this means that God’s favor will flow to those who are His children and we are to “take comfort and make use of the blessed fruit of salvation.”

In John 4:14 Jesus says, “whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never thirst. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

A. Are Isaiah and John talking about the same salvation? _____

B. From these verses, what do we learn about salvation?

6. What causes the joy that is described in Luke 15:7 ?

7. Acts 11:18 says, “God granted repentance that leads to life.” What do you believe this “life” is?

8. Read these verses and record what you learn about repentance. Matthew 3:8; Luke 5:32, 24:46-47, and 2 Corinthians 7:9-10.

9. What sin do you need to repent of today? Is there anyone you need to apologize to?

10. In 1 Thessalonians 3:9, what emotion spills into thanksgiving from Paul?

11. What two commands are given to us in Psalm 97:12?

12. What are you thankful for because of the joy God has given you?

13. Philippians 1:3-6, "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all, making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." What is Paul thankful for because of the joy it has brought him?

14. Describe how God has brought joy, flowing from gratitude into your life through the relationships He has given you.

15. Read 1 Chronicles 29:6-22.

A. What did the people give (verses 6-9)?

B. According to verse 9 what did their giving produce in them?

C. What was their attitude about giving?

D. In King David's joy he begins to pray in verse 11. According to verses 12 –13 why does God deserve thanks and praise for what the people have given?

16. Read about giving in Malachi 3:8-12.

A. What does God say His people have robbed from Him?

B. What does God promise to those who tithe?

17. What is God asking you to give to Him?

18. Psalm 63:7, 46:1, and Nehemiah 8:10 speak of God's help. What does this help result in according to Psalm 63:7?

19. What does God give us according to James 1:17?

20. Describe how God has helped you in a time when you really needed it. What was your emotional response when you recognized that it was God who was helping you?

21. Read Acts 13:48-52 and record why the disciples were joyful.

22. 3 John 1:4 "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." Some Christians are waiting for the joy of knowing that their biological or spiritual children are walking in God's truth. Who can you be praying for?

23. Read Deuteronomy 30:16-18; Psalm 97:11; Proverbs 10:28; and Ecclesiastes 2:26. From these verses list (A.) the rewards for the righteous and (B.) the consequences for the unrighteous.

A. _____

B. _____

24. According to Hebrews 12:2 what did Jesus do in an act of obedience?

What was set before Him in His obedience? _____

25. A. What command of God are you failing to obey?

B. What consequences can you expect from your disobedience?

C. From 1 John 1:9 and verses you have already looked at in this lesson, what reward could you expect if you repent and turn from the sin of disobedience?

26. Read Luke 6:20-23. These verses clearly acknowledge some earthly problems (poverty, hunger, weeping, and hatred from others).

A. What promises of hope for the believer does Jesus speak of in these verses?

B. In verse 6:23, what is our joy and our comfort to be based on?

27. What hope do 1 Thessalonians 4:13 –18 offer for the believer in Jesus Christ?

