

LHCF Sermon Discussion Guide

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Characteristics of a Prevailing Church – Part 2 John 17:13-26

Joy is the 1st characteristic of a prevailing church – *"Now I am coming to you. I told them many things while I was with them in this world so they would be filled with my joy."* John 17:13 (NLT)

1. Why joy is so important (*we discussed last week*)

- Joy is therapeutic and healing
- Joy gives strength and power
- Joy reduces the tensions and frictions of life
- Joy indicates that God is active in our life
- Joy is the hallmark of the Christian church

2. What to do when you've lost your joy

- Read and study _____
"Your words are what sustain me; they are food to my hungry soul. They bring joy to my sorrowing heart and delight me." Jere. 15:16 (TLB)
- Paul wrote and said in Gal 4:15-16 *"Where is that joyful and grateful spirit you felt then? Have I now become your enemy because I am telling you the truth?"*
- Spend time with _____
"We saw it, we heard it, and now we're telling you so you can experience it along with us, this experience of communion with the Father and his Son, Jesus Christ. Our motive for writing is simply this: We want you to enjoy this, too. Your joy will double our joy!" 1 John 1:3 (MSG)

- Remember: God delights in His children enriching their relationships with each other.
- Fill up with the _____
“Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts.” Eph. 5:18-19 (NLT)
- Jesus said in Luke 17:20-21 *“The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is within you.”*
- Our culture is steeped in people looking for satisfaction in all kinds of external enjoyment, but real joy comes from the Holy Spirit living in you. God's Holy Spirit provides a quenching of our thirst for satisfaction that never ends.
- Jesus put it this way... John 7:37-39 *“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive.”*
- Develop a meaningful and consistent _____
“I will bring these people to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Isa. 56:7 (NCV)

Next week we will look at: Holiness is the 2nd characteristic of a prevailing church – *“I'm not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. They do not belong to this world any more than I do. Make them holy by your truth.” John 17:15-17*

Mission or Ministry as appropriate – Who can you invite to your group or minister to that is having trouble trusting God...don't let them battle that alone, help them get in a small group and open up!