

Day 6

Joy

Silence (2 minutes) Take some time to be quiet, to calm down, and to listen. What has God been teaching you? What are the next steps He wants you to take? How is your spirit doing?

Scripture *"You make known to me the path of life; You will fill me with joy in Your presence, with eternal pleasures at Your right hand."* Psalms 16:11

Discussion In this psalm David acknowledges God is his Lord and he thanks God for His inheritance, counsel, and loyalty. The above verse is the conclusion of the psalm. God is intimate and generous. God showed David the meaning and direction of this life. And David declares his confidence that in the future, after this life, he will be in God's presence and that God Himself will fill David with joy. God will place David in a place of honor and David will experience eternal pleasure. God is described as Lord, powerful and wise, as well as personal, kind, and generous. Like David, our joy is in God's presence. Joy is not our goal; responding to God's call to be in a close relationship with Him is our goal. Joy is a natural result of being in relationship with God. *"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him."* (Heb. 11:6) We are in God's presence when we continually tell Him what is on our heart, read and study the Bible, obey Him, sing to Him, and worship Him with brothers and sisters in Christ. We can sit quietly in His presence, listening for and obeying His voice. We can ponder the circumstances and meaning of a particular Scripture. We can do the things that please Him: loving and strengthening the Church by our actions, and loving our neighbor by showing mercy. *"Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that confess His name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."* (Heb. 13:15)

Application God reveals to us His joy in a way that only He can, nothing else compares. With this in mind, where do you need God's joy the most today? Consider when and where that might be and plan ahead to give yourself 5-10 minutes to spend in prayer and stillness before God asking Him for His joy.

Prayer Father, I praise You that You are God, Lord, and King, and at the same time You are close, personal, kind, and generous. Thank You that You have shown me the path of life; that life is to know You, and Jesus Whom You sent. Thank You that You have made me in such a way that to know You, to be in Your presence is to experience joy. Thank You for the joy of Your presence. Father, I commit myself to being in Your presence and to please You. Thank You that You forgive me when I allow myself to be distracted. I again commit myself to be in Your presence and to please You. I praise You, Father. I love You. Amen.

Silence (2 minutes) Talk to God about what you are learning. What are your fears? Where are your hangups? Pray for direction.

Scripture memory for the week: *"For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."* Hebrews 12:2b-3