

# MESSAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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Marty Grubbs, Senior Pastor

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This week, Senior Pastor Marty Grubbs Bill Search, continued in our new series, *Fruit of the Spirit*, focusing on joy. He presented this biblical definition of joy: a feeling of good pleasure and happiness that is dependent on who Jesus is rather than on who we are or what is happening around us. Joy comes from the Holy Spirit, abiding in God's presence and from hope in his Word.

Joy is not happiness:

- Happiness is external.
- Happiness is inconsistent.
- Happiness is circumstantial.

The biblical definition of joy:

- Joy is a gift from Jesus and has to be received.
- Joy is internal.
- Joy is given and sustained by Jesus.

Joy stealers:

- Worry: an inordinate anxiety about something that may or may not occur
- Stress: an intense strain over a situation we cannot change or control
- Fear: uneasiness over the presence of danger, evil, or pain

## SCRIPTURE

### 1 CORINTHIANS 6:3-10 NLT

<sup>3</sup>We live in such a way that no one will stumble because of us, and no one will find fault with our ministry. <sup>4</sup>In everything we do, we show that we are true ministers of God. We patiently endure troubles and hardships and calamities of every kind. <sup>5</sup>We have been beaten, been put in prison, faced angry mobs, worked to exhaustion, endured sleepless nights, and gone without food. <sup>6</sup>We prove ourselves by our purity, our understanding, our patience, our kindness, by the Holy Spirit within us, and by our sincere love. <sup>7</sup>We faithfully preach the truth. God's power is working in us. We use the weapons of righteousness in the right hand for attack and the left hand for defense. <sup>8</sup>We serve God whether people honor us or despise us, whether they slander us or praise us. We are honest, but they call us impostors. <sup>9</sup>We are ignored, even though we are well known. We live close to death, but we are still alive. We have been beaten, but we have not been killed. <sup>10</sup>Our hearts ache, but we always have joy. We are poor, but we give spiritual riches to others. We own nothing, and yet we have everything.

### 1 JOHN 4:7-12

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. <sup>2</sup>We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.

### 1 PETER 1:8 NLT

You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy.

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## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What stood out from Marty's message?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 6:3-10. What do you learn about joy from Paul's testimony to the Corinthians?
3. How does the world define joy? How is this different from what Paul says?
4. Read Hebrews 12:1-2 and 1 Peter 1:8. What brings joy in the midst of hard circumstances?
5. How has God brought you joy in the middle of pain or suffering? (Be specific in recounting a time where happiness was impossible but joy showed up.)
6. How does that encourage you for current or future trials?
7. How can we pray for you?

## **PRAYER**

Praise God for his abiding love and gift of the Holy Spirit, who produces joy in us regardless of our circumstances. Ask God to remove anything that is getting in the way of your joy, keeping you from him, and to restore your relationship to one dependent on Jesus, connected to the Spirit.