



JOHN 16:16-24

JOY IN JESUS:
My Communion At Christmas

HARVEST
BIBLE
CHAPEL

WEEK 3

Sometimes God brings about joy from the most unlikely places. Steve and his family experienced this with the addition of Quin, a child with Down Syndrome, to their family. How have you seen God bring joy to your life in ways that you could have never predicted? How is the source of your joy directly related to your relationship with Jesus Christ?

3 Results of the Cross of Jesus Christ:

1. Joy comes suddenly. Read John 16:16-20. The disciples were completely confused by what Christ was saying to them. In verse 25 the text says that Christ was communicating in "figures of speech." Have you ever read something from God's Word and not understood what you are reading? Sometimes when God speaks to you in the present, He is preparing you for the future. What did not make sense to the disciples then, would be understood at a later time. When God does this in your own life, He is preparing your heart for sudden joy in the future, when you finally come to an understanding. How does this relate to the disciples? What was Christ preparing them for?

Verse 20b says, "You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn to joy." The disciples experienced this by weeping at the sight of Christ on the cross, but later were overcome with gladness at the news that Christ had risen and seeing Him face to face again. Share with the small group a time when God has taken you from a place of sorrow to joy. What troubles your heart today that your small group could pray and encourage you about? Take this to your break out time. How does joy in the cross of Jesus give me hope and peace for the future?

2. Joy continues secure. Read John 16:21-22. Even though Christ was soon going to be leaving His disciples, He promises that He will see them again (v22). This is a promise directly from the lips of Christ -- and no one could steal their joy of seeing Christ again! When you see Jesus, through death or His return, how do you think you will react? How does this promise to see your Savior face to face in the future, inspire and encourage you to live for Him now?

Watching the news you will quickly observe that our world is more defined by uncertainty than security, and heartache more than gladness. All this can bring about feelings of anxiety and gloom. How does your relationship with Christ bring about certainty amidst worldly unrest? How can having a confident joy impact the people in your sphere of influence? Share a time that your joy, which was rooted in Christ, was noticed by others.

3. Joy completely satisfies. Read John 16:23-24. This time of year, the world tries to sell us that Christmas-time is all about instant happiness. Food, gifts, and vacations, are all examples of this. But this happiness is only temporal. The yummy Christmas cookies will run out, the vacation will come to an end, and the gifts are less exciting come February. What is the difference between instant happiness that the world offers, and lasting joy through Christ?

In these couple of verses, Christ says anything you ask for in His name you will receive, making your joy full. Christ is not implying that you can ask for anything you want and He will give it to you, like He is a genie in a bottle. What He is saying is that our request can be brought to the Father based upon the merit of Christ. What He did on the cross opened up communion for us with the Father. When we are truly abiding in Him, we will only ask for those things that are in harmony with His will; therefore, bringing clear answers to our prayers. The result for us is a joy that completely satisfies! Share with the group how you have seen God answer a prayer in your life that brought about great joy. How has your time in prayer been lately? Could your time in prayer everyday be defined as authentic, expectant, persistent, and fervent? Explain and share how you need to grow in your prayer time.

READING PLAN:

MONDAY

Psalm 98

TUESDAY

Isaiah 35

WEDNESDAY

Zephaniah
3:14-20

THURSDAY

Isaiah 42:1-12

FRIDAY

Psalm 126