

Series Title: Advent 2018

Sermon Title: Week of Joy: Five false beliefs that will steal your Joy, *and the Truths that set Joy free!*

Date: 12-16-18

2 Peter 1:3-5 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

- **What are God's great and precious promises? To every believer, everywhere, all time. Many things we claim as promises, that are not (prosperity gospel), but also promises that we often set aside because they are received by FAITH.**
- **TODAY- focus on one of those promises that is central to God's divine nature... JOY**
- ✠ **The Gospels shocking promise: In Christ, we (disciples of Jesus) have been given the ever-present power of JOY.**

John 16:21-22 *A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. ²² So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.*

John 15:10-12 *If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.*

- **Joy is source of profound power in life- writer of Hebrews describes Joy as the motivation that took Jesus to the cross. AND YET, joy is elusive. WHY**
- **TODAY- 5 false beliefs that steal joy... at core of lack of transformation in so many lives**
- **WORD! Today is preview- cover LOTS- we are going to cover in depth in 2019. Concepts, biblical principles... you must go deeper. Peter's book**
- ✠ **False Belief #1: PAIN is BAD, and I need to protect myself from experiencing it.**

- **Where scripture tells us JOY is one of our greatest motivators, for many, pain avoidance is one of greatest motivators. AND, to avoid pain, we hide our hurts, the thorns in our flesh that keep us apart from God's freedom. At the root of many sustained behavioral issues, pride, anger... pain avoidance.**

TRUTH! Pain is actually one of God's most important gifts

- **Writer of Hebrews describing blessing of discipline**

Hebrews 12:10-11 *They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. ¹¹ No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.*

- **Pain, when we listen to it, surrender it, is the door into spiritual, relational, and emotional healing- restoration of JOY.**

✠ **False Belief #2: My well-being depends on meeting the expectations of OTHERS. PBA**

- **Story of Jesus and rich young ruler.**

Mark 10:17-22 *As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"*

- **HEAR- what must I DO to earn, to measure up... WHAT ARE THE EXPECTATIONS... TO PERFORM**

¹⁸ "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.'"

“Teacher,” he declared, “all these I have kept since I was a boy.”

- **What he is REALLY saying.. I’ve done this- in comparison to others. PRIDE derives its search for wellness by comparing self to others**

²¹ Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

- **Irony- we think this is teaching that life comes through radical giving, or vows of poverty- still performance. Jesus knew he (and we) must recognize that there is NOTHING WE HAVE to measure up to God’s love, mercy, life. ONLY SOURCE IS TO FOLLOW HIM.**

²² At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

TRUTH! My well-being is in CHRIST, and comes from living by GRACE, not by keeping the LAW.

- **Well being- joy- is RECEIVED, not achieved. Sustained by Spirit of God in our faith relationship with him.**

Romans 7:6 But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.

† False Belief #3: My core needs can be supplied by a source other than GOD

- **We know this! Do it all the time. NEED acceptance. Love. Peace. Purpose. Relationship. Hope.**
- **We look for it in temporary things. Not just negative things (lust, addiction, unhealthy patterns, self-medication) but also good things.**
- **CRABB- Pressures off... we may have many second place passions... these are good, gifts... but only one FIRST PLACE PASSION. Only one true source. If we may second place passions- temporary things- our FPP, we will be disappointed. Resentful...**

TRUTH! Jesus is the key to all of my needs being met, HE is the source!

2 Peter 1:1-3 Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours: ² Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

† False Belief #4: The standards of MY JUSTICE system must be met by everyone.

- **Idol of my sense of fairness.**
- **We think, “My soul cannot be WELL, I cannot have JOY, be at peace, be complete”, because of what someone else has done. Because of what I THINK I DESERVE. Because People don’t agree with me**
- **Someone else gets the raise**
- **Someone else doesn’t face the consequence**
- **Someone else gets what I want in life**
- **RESULT- jealousy, bitterness, anger**
- **RESULT- PBA- we demand that others perform for us- meet our expectations**
- **WE MAKE OUR JOY, PEACE, FREEDOM- contingent on things 100% OUT OF OUR CONTROL- and we are IN BONDAGE.**
- **DOESN’T MEAN we don’t work for justice. Simply means we don’t make justice- as it relates to ME- to be my source of JOY. REALITY...**

TRUTH! Justice is God’s domain and He simply calls me to love and forgive

Galatians 5:1, 13-15 *It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.*

¹³ *You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.* ¹⁴ *For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."* ¹⁵ *If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.*

† False Belief #5: My REAL SELF will never be good enough.

- ***We place our identity it how we measure up to others, how we have temporary things, how people act toward us... conclude that something must be wrong with ME.***
- ***Variant- PRIDE- we think our real self is better than everyone else.***
- ***We compensate- tearing others down. Helplessness. Anxiety. Depression. Obsession with external self- how we measure up to others. All sorts of negative behaviors in search for identity. RELIGION/LLEGALISM***
- ***ABSOLUTE JOY KILLER! Robs us of experience of FREEDOM AND LIFE God has given us in Christ***

TRUTH! Because I am God's masterpiece, I am worth BEING, KNOWING, and LOVING.

Ephesians 2:10 *For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

- ***Handiwork- "poemia"... poem, masterpiece.***
- ***GIFT WE CAN GIVE***
 - ***Be patient, mercy, love to person in pain***
 - ***Let go of performance demands you are making on someone***
 - ***Let God use you to meet someones needs***
 - ***Stop demanding that someone meets your standard of fairness- give forgiveness***
 - ***Bless the people in your life by accepting God's gift of CONTENTMENT he has given you- see this in the lives of other believer***