

YEAR OF GROWTH

JOY WEEK 1

EXPLANATION

Definitions:

The Hebrew word most commonly translated as 'joy' is *simchah*. It refers to "glee, gladness, mirth, or pleasure. There is another Hebrew word that is sometimes translated as 'enjoy,' referring to "being pleased with or finding something favorable." Yet another word, *sason*, references joy but in relation to brightness. Finally, there is the word *renanah*, used in the poetic books of Job and Psalms, that refers to a "shout for joy" or a "joyful voice" often expressed in singing. There are other words used for 'joy' in the Old Testament, but these give an idea of their meanings.

The Chaldee or Aramaic word for 'joy' is found in its various forms some 6 times in the Old Testament. It refers to rejoicing, gladness, or joy.

The Greek word for 'joy' is *chairo*, meaning, "Full of cheer, happy; to be glad, to rejoice; or to be well." This word was often used as a greeting and is rendered as "greeting" in James 1:1. Derived from this word is *chara* which refers to "cheerfulness, gladness, or calm delight." The word *agalliao* means, "To jump or shout for joy" and refers to an exultation.

Day One _____ – Sunday

Reflect on the previous lessons concerning faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love. Among all these characteristics we must add joy. Clearly, the Bible has much to say about joy and being joyful. Think upon the definitions of the words that God used to describe joy. Pray for wisdom in understanding this characteristic. Pray for strength as you prepare for this study.

Day Two _____ – Monday

Deuteronomy 28:45-47

In this passage, joyfulness is synonymous with gladness of heart. Yet, both feelings come from an understanding of the goodness of God manifested in His blessings. This is an important principle about Bible joy. It is based upon God and one's relationship with Him, not just on the circumstances of life.

Day Three _____ – Tuesday

Psalm 5:11-12

This psalm describes the good character of God. Because of it, those who trust in God rejoice and shout for joy. They are joyful in Him – again, not in the circumstances of life (cf. Psalm 16:11).

Day Four – Wednesday**Psalm 30:4-5**

Again, joy is connected to the character of God and one's fellowship with Him. Though we sin and face God's wrath, it is only for a moment. An evening of weeping becomes a morning of joy because of restoration to God's favor. Thus, we sing and give thanks!

Day Five – Thursday**John 15:9-11**

Out of His love, Jesus gives joy to His followers. By obeying His commands, we abide in His love and His joy remains in us. Only when His joy is in us can our joy be full. Once again, joy is dependent upon one's fellowship with the Lord, not the circumstances of life.

Day Six – Friday**John 16:19-22**

Jesus teaches that sorrow can and will be turned to joy. His apostles would sorrow over His death; but, when they saw Him again at His resurrection, they would be filled with joy. Jesus declared that no man can take this joy from His disciples. The Christian's joy cannot be stolen from him because it is rooted in his fellowship with the Lord.

Day Seven – Saturday**1 John 1:1-4**

John wrote by inspiration to teach us how to have fellowship with God. When this relationship is established, it also places us in fellowship with all of God's people – the saved, the church. As a result, our joy is made full, complete, and abounding! We must always remember that true joy is tied to one's relationship with God, not the circumstances of life.