

Choose Joy

"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete"
(John 15:11).

The Lord speaks to me at some odd times (grin)....I was on a train headed into DC for a job interview when I heard, "Choose Joy." Seriously, "Choose Joy."

It got me thinking how "Joy" is always a choice. Just like salvation, joy is a free and perfect gift from Him, and we must reach out and accept that gift. Joy is part of our inheritance.

I realize that joy is not so much a feeling as it is a choice, and we often tend to mistake happiness for joy. Happiness depends on our circumstances while joy is independent of our circumstances. As I thought on it, I was struck with how easily little things could attempt to steal my joy.

Rick Warren said this about joy- *"Joy is the settled assurance that God is in control of all the details of my life, the quiet confidence that ultimately everything is going to be alright, and the determined choice to praise God in every situation."*

Joy can stay with you for the long haul because God's joy cannot be taken away from us and it's always there for us to walk in. Joy flows from a constant awareness of our intimate relationship with God. When we trust Him we know for certain who we are in Christ.

God is longing to help many rise with joy. Today's message is a reminder to pursue His joy in the midst of your daily life. So many things are out of our control, but what we choose, that's not one of those things. If we step back, we can find the joy and encouragement that God is sending to us.

Remember- Joy is a fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23) and a byproduct of remaining in God's love (John 15:9-11).

Choosing joy isn't always easy, but that is where our faith grows

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KVIhb-c_4Tw