



Watch the Joy Stealers

Joy stealers are like the ham burglar from McDonalds. Everybody is enjoying life, eating their food while the ham burglar is plotting on how to steal your hamburgers or cheese burgers. Ronald McDonald would always catch him before he stole the burgers. Kind of like Ronald ,, but better The Holy Spirit will restore our joy when Satan and the world tries to steal our Joy.

Saints we are living in a world that is troubled. What's up is down, what's right is wrong. When you try to do what is right here comes trouble. Well I'm not trying to bring you down tonight. Some of you have had a rough day, maybe others have been through a tough week, yet others have had a rough month. My assignment tonight is to encourage you to keep it moving. You are stronger than you know, and yes this too shall pass. Jesus, the light of the world, had some tough days and He is the son of God. He knew that tough time come and go, so He warns us to stay encouraged, because greater is coming.

What is the difference between joy and happiness? Happiness is an emotion, Joy is spiritual.

The Bible speaks much more often of joy than of being happy.

“Happiness” means chance and is the root of several words— happen, happening, haphazard (dependent on luck or chance), happenstance (a chance circumstance) and happy.

Joy is a gift from God and is a product of living in the fullness of the Holy Spirit. One can have joy no matter what is going on around you. For joy comes from within and is not external. The Holy Spirit within gives this inner joy. You can live a life of joy should your focus be on Jesus.

Jesus said His joy would “remain in you” and “your joy no one will take from you” (John 15:11; John 16:22).

[John 10:10](#)

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

Jesus said to His disciples, "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full" (John 15:11)

[Galatians 5:22](#)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

[Philippians 1:14-4:14](#)

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!.....

Summary: Philippians is commonly called the "Book of Joy". But Paul presents several thieves that try to rob us of our joy. The second thief: "Difficult People."

JOY STEALERS are People who don't walk or understand the power of God in your Life!

All of us, at one time or another, have had our Joy threatened because of PEOPLE—what they ARE, what they SAY, and what they DO.

People problems are probably one of the worst kind of PROBLEMS to have! problems with FAMILY, FRIENDS, CO-WORKERS, FELLOW-CHRISTIANS, can really get you down and rob you of your joy. When we have People Problems, we often deal with it by hiding from and avoiding the people as much as possible.

Don't allow People, Things, Circumstances to rob your joy. They are joy stealers, and before you know it, you are walking in depression, contemplating suicide, turning to alcohol or drugs, all because you are trying to cope instead of using your joy to overcome and make you an overcomer.

Christians, we cannot isolate ourselves from people and still live to GLORIFY Christ. We are the "LIGHT of the world and the SALT of the earth."

Paul encouraged the Philippian church; he talks about his own STRUGGLE with PEOPLE and the STRUGGLE that the Philippian church was having because of PEOPLE PROBLEMS.

1. Yet Paul wants the Christians at Philippi to understand, that in spite of PEOPLE PROBLEMS they can still have JOY.

2. Again, the key verse in Philippians is found in chapter 4:4: "REJOICE in the Lord always. I will say it again. REJOICE!"

The joy of the Lord is my strength." Neh.8:10. For the follower of Jesus this is great news. The Lord gives us 'His' joy and this joy is our strength.

Ask for it.

Rom.15:13. *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."*

Joy Stealers: Our sinful flesh, lying lips, jealousy, religious people,

Psalm 119:2-5

Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart, who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways! You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently. Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!

I John 1:4 These things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

God wants your joy to be full and overflowing! Joy is contagious it will bring joy to others.