

Our Loving is Connected to Our Knowing

Opening Discussion:

What have you learned about God recently (big or small) that grew your love for him?

*What have you learned about God have caused you to feel distant from him?
(What do we do with that?)*

Goals for Today:

1. Consider how our knowledge of God leads to love for God.
2. Take a biblical look at what joy is and what we can do about increasing joy in our lives.

Knowing God Leads to Loving God

Jeremiah 9:23–24

1 John 4:19

Ephesians 3:14–19

Philippians 3:8–10

Remembering Last Week's List Examples of Jesus Love Demonstrated to Us

Jesus loved us in coming down to earth. - Philippians 2:1–8

Jesus loved us by being a perfect example of love to us. - Ephesians 5:1–2

In the ultimate act of love Jesus died for us. - Romans 5:8, 1 John 4:10, John 15:13

Your Additions: His endless mercy, He rescues us, Forgives our sin, He is patient, He sends us the Spirit, Disciplines us, Uses us, Gives us His Word, Places us into

His Church, Is always available to us, is in sovereign control of our life's circumstances, give us hope in death.

As Years Go By, We Gain Increased Opportunities to Know God

As We Invest More Time with God, We Gain Increased Understanding of God.

John 15 as a Joy Investment:

Trust Jesus Words

John 15 Tributaries

Can you share about a time when you experienced a fullness of joy as you invested yourself into one or more of these 5 pathways?

Weirsbe's Wisdom

Romans 12:1-2

Give God our body, our mind, our will, and our heart.

What are some practical ways you make investments into your joy?

John 15 as a Joy Diagnostic:

Reading John 15 as Dams

What is Joy?

Romans 15:13

James 1:2

1 Peter 1:3-6

Simply put, Biblical joy is choosing to respond to external circumstances with inner contentment and satisfaction, because we know that God will use these experiences to accomplish His work in and through our lives.

- Mel Walker Author for ChristianityToday.com

...Joy is a good feeling in the soul produced by the Holy Spirit as he causes us to see the beauty of Christ in his word and in his work.

- John Piper

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/how-do-you-define-joy>

When a person lives in the sphere of love, then he experiences joy—that inward peace and sufficiency that is not affected by outward circumstances. (A case in point is Paul's experience recorded in Phil. 4:10–20.) This "holy optimism" keeps him going in spite of difficulties. Love and joy together produce peace, "the peace of God, which passeth all understanding" (Phil. 4:7). These first three qualities express the Godward aspect of the Christian life.

- The Bible Exposition Commentary (on Galatians 5), Warren Wiersbe

Our Joy is Impacted by the fall.

Consequence of Sin

Tension of Active Spiritual Warfare

Physical Corruption

Presence of Death

Our Joy is Threatened by...

Little Foxes – Song 2:15 (Substitutions)

Lazy Sluggards – Proverbs 24:30-34 (Neglect)

2 Corinthians 7:1 (Make Effort)

Concluding Thoughts