

True Joy
Trusting God's Promises
Talk 3

Overview: In this talk we will investigate true joy (biblical joy) in the context of trusting in God's promises. Thus, we will need to think together about:

1. God's promises, especially those promises that are given by God in Christ as contained in and relating to the gospel.
2. The necessity and impact of faith in God's promises are a vital aspect of the Christian life.
3. The consequential joy that comes from embracing God's promises by faith is central to the experience of joy itself.

Faith in God's Promises Causing Joy

- God makes promises as an extension of His good character and love. In addition, His promises are made to be claimed and embraced by His people. The embracing of God's promises is faith in Christ claiming the promises of God in the gospel that launches joy in living.
 - Faith in Christ awakens the affections of the heart.
 - Faith in Christ draws joy out from the affections of the heart.
 - Faith in Christ sustains joy in life, even when troubles come.
 - Faith in Christ sustaining joy in life results in obedient endurance and perseverance of the Christian.
 - Faith in Christ proves the presence of faith and the worthiness of God, both of which enhances joy in the heart.
- Hebrews 11:1 establishes the nature of faith in God's promises.
 - Faith is linked to assurance tied to what God has said.
 - Faith is convinced that God is trustworthy in what He has promised.
 - Faith rests its health and blessing upon the trustworthiness of God as seen in the promises He makes to His people.
- Hebrews 11:6 teaches God's view of faith in this context, and this verse teaches the certainties included in faith, as it pertains to God.
- The Bible establishes faith in its fundamental role to a saved relationship with God as understood in justification:
 - See Genesis 15:6 – Abraham serves as the OT example of faith understood in this way.
 - See Romans 4:20-24 – Paul uses Abraham as the prime example of NT saving faith, in that faith
 - Is central to a justified state before God,
 - Is understood as clinging to the certainty that we can trust God

- Faith finds its full expression by believing in Christ as the Messiah, our Savior, and our authoritative Lord.
 - 2 Corinthians 1:20 – The ultimate focus of Christian faith is targeted towards Christ.
 - 2 Corinthians 1:20 – Christ is seen by faith as the ultimate provision by God the Father.
 - 2 Corinthians 1:20 – Faith believes that in Christ, all God’s promises are a certain YES.
 - 2 Corinthians 1:20 – Understands faith to be AMEN to these promises in Christ.
 - Thus, through faith Christians see the promises of God in Christ.
 - Thus, through faith Christians embrace the promises of God in Christ.
 - Thus, through faith Christians find all the good gifts and joys found in Christ.

Joy through Trusting God

- Joy in faith’s testing – James 1:2-4 “Count it all joy...The testing of your faith develops perseverance”
 - Perseverance means present and abiding joy.
 - Joy comes to us through the testing of our faith in God’s promises.
 - Joy and the certainty that comes through the testing of faith.
 - Joy and the establishment of a deeper relationship through the testing of faith.
 - Perseverance is formed by the testing of faith, which brings us to joy that sustains.

 - Joy is Holding onto the Hope in Christ – Hebrews 10:23 “Let us hold resolutely to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful”
 - Romans 12:12 “rejoice in hope”
 - Joy is infused by hope.
 - Hope results in joy.
 - Romans 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.”
 - God accomplishes hope through joy, which is found in believing.
 - Joy is strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit causing us to abound in hope.
 - Romans 14:17 “The kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”
 - The kingdom of God is not about externals.
 - The king of God is about the glory of God giving us joy:
 - Righteous joy
 - Peaceful joy
 - Joy in the Holy Spirit
 - His power
 - His purity
 - His purpose
- Galatians 5:22 “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, and peace...”
 - Love inspires joy.
 - Peace is the fruit of joy.
 - Joy sustains love.
 - Peace points to joy.
- Proverbs 10:28 “The hope of the righteous brings joy”

- Joy in Jesus, the Sequential Connection between Faith and Joy – 1 Peter 1:8 “Though you have not seen Him, you love Him. Though you do not now see Him, you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory.”
 - Faith is not seeing Jesus or experiencing Jesus in a physical and material sense.
 - Faith is focused on Jesus as worthy because of who He is and what He has done for us.
 - Faith, to be faith, is linked inseparably to joy.
 - This joy causes rejoicing.
 - Rejoicing comes from joy; joy causes rejoicing.
 - Rejoicing shows joy in Jesus Christ.
 - This joy is inexpressible.
 - Joy that is transcendent – it is beyond us.
 - Joy that is beyond our imagination
 - Joy that is heart fulfilling and satisfying
 - Joy that we never feel that we exhaust or fully understand
 - This joy is filled with God’s glory.
 - God’s glory and honor
 - God’s glory in salvation
 - God’s glory in love and joy

- Joy and the Power of Hope in Christ
 - The value of God’s promises is seen in their impact on human experience in an actualized sense.

 - Joy is willing to wait on God’s fulfillment of His promises, because the promises and their joyful effect on us make the wait worth while.
 - We trust in God’s goodness demonstrated in sovereign wisdom.
 - We are convinced that when God sees fit to fulfill His promise, we will praise Him for His goodness in doing so.

 - Joy sustained by hope fights doubt and depression on the basis of the worthiness of God.
 - Joy hugs the truth of Scripture and makes it a weapon to fight against Satan’s attacks.
 - Joy as a weapon is seen in three ways:
 - Prayer – The liveliness of our life in Christ
 - Worship – The joy of exalting God through Christ
 - Enduring obedience – The power of steadfastness in obeying Christ

- Joy in Redemptive Living
 - Isaiah 55:12 “For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the fields shall clap their hands.”
 - The Christian life is a joyful life – “You shall go out in joy”
 - The Christian’s joy is a life of peace – “and be led forth in peace”
 - See Matthew 5:9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.”

- Psalm 30:5 “His anger is but for a moment, and His favor for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes in the morning.”
 - Joy at times may not be in our conscious awareness of our lives.
 - We continue on in steadfastness, regardless of joy’s apparent absence.
 - We serve, we give, and we live in hope for joy’s return.
 - Weeping and pain must not deter our obedience.
 - Joy is coming:
 - Joy is coming with certainty; thus we have faith.
 - Joy is coming in the morning of God’s favor and blessing; thus, we have faith.
 - Joy is coming; thus we wait.
 - Joy is coming; thus we hope.
 - Joy is then a waiting joy, a hopeful joy, and a certain joy; therefore, we have faith that joy will come back.