

Personal / Small Group Sermon Study

God Wants Me to Enjoy Life

Week of January 28, 2018 A.D.

God wants me to enjoy life. Does that mean that I should eat, drink, and be merry because tomorrow I may die? Or, does it mean something else? Let's talk about that in this lesson.

Read John 10:10

1. In your opinion, what does it mean to "have life to the full"? Please explain your answer.
2. In what respects are you having life to the full? In what respects are you not having life to the full? Please explain.
3. Must a person be a Christian to fully enjoy life? Is enjoying life the same as having life to the full? Please explain.

Read Galatians 5:19-25

4. Which of the acts of the sinful nature contained in these verses bring joy into your life? Which of the characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit bring joy into your life? For each answer, explain why there is a presence or absence of joy.

Read I Peter 2:11-12

5. Do you enjoy doing good deeds? Please explain why or why not. Do you deliberately plan your day so that you can do good deeds? If not, why not? If so, why and how?
6. What does it mean to "glorify God"? Do you receive joy from glorifying God? If not, why not? If so, why? Please explain.

Read Psalm 119:14-16

7. If you had no money and no assets, would you enjoy life as much as you do now? Please explain.
8. Do you receive joy from following the statutes of God? If not, why not? If so, how and why? If so, do you follow every statute of God? If not, why not? Do these questions reveal any need for changes in your daily routine? If so, what changes? If not, why not? Please explain.
9. What one or two actions give you the greatest joy? Please explain how and why. Do you believe that God is pleased when you enjoy those one or two actions? If so, (a) how often do you do them and (b) why don't you do them more often? Please explain.

Read Philippians 2:1-4

10. How and why could the actions of the Philippians bring joy to Paul? Do you feel the same joy as Paul does when you see (or hear of) similar actions in the lives of your friends? Please explain.
11. Which gives to you the greater joy: (a) putting the interests of others ahead of your own interests or (b) putting your own interests ahead of the interests of others? Please explain (and be completely honest).

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

12. Why does God love a cheerful giver? Are you a cheerful giver? Do you receive joy from giving to other people? If not, why not? If so, what is the reason that you do not give more to other people and do it more often? Please explain.

Consider: By his very nature, God is a giver. When I became a Christian, I received the nature of God. Therefore, my "new nature" (which is the nature of God) transforms me into a giver who looks out for the interests of others. My acts of kindness and generosity given to other people give joy to God; and, those same acts of kindness also make me a joyful person. Surrendering to the nature of God within me is the only way that I can enjoy having life to the full. "You think about that!" Amen.