

“Growing in Joy”

Nehemiah 8:5-12, James 1:16-25



10/05/2014

Look Inside

1. What is true joy to you? Why is it so difficult sometimes for Christians to hold onto it?
2. How do you go about fixing your mindset on an attitude of rejoicing?
3. In what ways have you let people steal joy from you?
4. John 1:19-21 fixates on some things that separate us from God's will for our lives. What is one area of your life where you have improved in this? What is one area of your life that still needs work?

Look Deeper

1. Why do you believe the people Ezra read the law to were weeping?
2. The scriptures speak of freedom, but our freedom comes from following the Word of God. How does this contrast with the mainstream view of freedom? In what ways does following the will of the Lord set you free?
3. James 1:19-20 speaks specifically of human anger. What does this have to do with the context in which James writes this letter? Who is he writing this to? Do some research on the context of James and figure out why he specifically mentions anger.



Look Ahead

1. In what ways can you live with a more rejoicing attitude?
2. How can you encourage others to live in joy?
3. What daily practices can you put into place that keep you in a mindset of rejoicing in God?

Prayer

1. Pray for rejoicing, even in the hard times. It is when we are able to recognize our blessings in the midst of a storm that our faith grows.
2. Pray that you would be able to share in your rejoicing with others, so as to encourage them in possibly difficult times.
3. Pray for the discipline to not only read and understand the word of God, but to carry it out in your own life, growing daily in your relationship with God.