



Growth Group Question
December 7, 2025
“Joy to the World”

SCRIPTURE AND QUOTES

Psalm 98

- ¹ Sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things;
his right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.
- ² The LORD has made his salvation known
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.
- ³ He has remembered his love
and his faithfulness to Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
- ⁴ Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;
- ⁵ make music to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of singing,
- ⁶ with trumpets and the blast of the ram’s horn—
shout for joy before the LORD, the King.
- ⁷ Let the sea resound, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it.
- ⁸ Let the rivers clap their hands,
let the mountains sing together for joy;
- ⁹ let them sing before the LORD,
for he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

Mark 1:14-15

¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

Isaiah 8:22-9:2

²² Then they will look toward the earth and see only distress and darkness and fearful gloom, and they will be thrust into utter darkness.

9 Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.

He will reign on David’s throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the LORD Almighty

Kay Warren, *Choose Joy Because Happiness Isn’t Enough*

“Joy is the settled assurance that God is in control of all the details of my life, the quiet confidence that ultimately everything is going to be all right, and the determined choice to praise God in all things.”

Psalms 51:12

¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Hebrews 12:1-2

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

QUESTIONS

1. What comes to your mind when you think about joy?
2. What do you see as the difference between joy and happiness?
3. If someone were to ask you what is the ultimate source of happiness in your life, what would you say?
4. Think about someone whom you consider to be a joyful person. What characterizes that person's life?
5. Pastor Paul quoted Karl Barth as saying joy is a "defiant nevertheless." What does that mean to you?
6. What Biblical characters stand out in your mind as being joyful despite their circumstances?
7. What circumstances can keep us from experiencing the joy that God wants for our lives?
8. How can you actively cultivate more joy in your daily life and in uncertain or difficult times?
9. Which Bible verses help you to understand the nature of true spiritual joy?

PASTOR PAUL'S SERMON QUESTIONS

1. Is there a place where I need to choose joy even though my circumstances have not changed – and what steps could I take toward choosing joy?
2. What is a practical way you could express God's joy or hope to someone else this week?