



Date: July 19, 2020

Message: Character Qualities for Tough Times: Joy

Teacher: Billy Burch

Video is available online at messages.visitccc.com

Outline & Discussion Questions

Connection

Take 10-15 minutes and do a connection starter as a group. *Have you ever dropped or lost something that was hard to find? If so, describe what it was like and tell us if you experienced the joy of finding it.*

Cheer and Challenge

Have each person share a high and low from this past week.

Content

Read Galatians 5:22-23 - List the 9 character qualities that make up the fruit of the Spirit

You can experience constant joy because of God's life expressed in you.

- Read I Chronicles 16:31-33. How do the sea, fields and trees demonstrate joy?
- Every created thing has the propensity for joy. What does that reveal about you? How can you demonstrate joy in word and action?
- Happiness is related to and dependent upon happenings. How is joy different? What is joy dependent upon?
- Like Morse Code, life is interspersed with trials and problems, separated by small spaces in-between. Take a moment to list or share some of the trials in your life right now. On a scale of 1-10, how much is each inhibiting/affecting your joy?

You can experience constant joy even through your trials.

- Read 1 Peter 1:6-7 and John 16:33. How do these scriptures work together to shed light on trials?
- In light of these two verses, complete the sentence, "When I am going through trials, I need to remember..."
- When you think of the process of refining something, what comes to mind? If you are familiar with the process of how fire tests gold, please share that in your answer.

- How do trials do something similar for your faith? What is the ultimate purpose of those trials?
- What would it look like in your life to show joy as you go through one of your trials?

You can experience constant joy through your faith.

- Read I Peter 1:8. Have you ever had a time when you doubted God? Share what that was like if you are willing.
- Respond to this statement: "If there was no such thing as doubt, there would be no such thing as faith."
- We are used to proving things through our senses, but what are some things which can't be seen but you know are real?
- Read John 20:24-29. How does verse 29 relate to you?
- Read I Peter 1:8 again. What does the phrase "glorious, inexpressible joy" convey?

Commitment

How will you live out the truth from these passages this week? Take time to create an "I will..." statement from any of the scripture we learned about above.

Close

Pray together and for each other.

Continue



Be Praying – as you think about the blessing of joy, which we as believers experience, pray for an unbelieving friend to know Jesus.

Digging Deeper

1. Write out Galatians 5:22-23 and practice memorizing it.
2. What does the phrase "Fruit of the Spirit" convey? It is described as the "Fruit of the Spirit, not "Fruits of the Spirit". Is there any significance of the fruit being singular rather than plural? What might this communicate to you? Are they independent or interdependent?
3. Take time this week to rejoice. Each day, or as much as possible, find a song that has the theme of joy and sing along. Share the song with a friend, family member or neighbor and spread the joy.
4. "The secret of joy is Christ in me, not me in different circumstances." Elisabeth Elliott. What circumstances are seeking to rob you of your joy? How are joy and gratefulness connected? Read I Thessalonians 5:16-18. Take time to pray and giving thanks to God in the midst of your circumstances whether they are difficult or pleasant. Ask Him to renew your joy and then write a list of things you are grateful for at this time.
5. Research and learn about the refining process of gold. Reread I Peter 1:7. What can we learn about the refining process God allows us to go thru? If you are feeling the "heat" of the refining process right now, what areas of growth might God be highlighting? What established areas of strength are seen in your faith during this refinement process?