

Choosing Joy

SERMON NOTES

“The Joy of the Lord is your strength!” (Neh 8:20)

What does this phrase mean, and what is the key to finding joy in the midst of pain?

I. Delight in simple pleasures

- Fatigue undermines it
- Psalm 86:4
- Common Grace
- Proverbs 8:30–31

II. Delight in God’s love for you

- Remember who you are
- Romans 11:29
- Zephaniah 3:17
- Romans 8:33–34

III. Delight in loving others as God has loved you

- John 15:9–12
- Money can be a barrier or a blessing

IV. Delight in God’s joy

- The Trinity
- Not the Jonas Brothers’ idea
- Leslie Newbigin
- The wound of Odysseus

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are the simple pleasures of life that give you joy?
2. What pleasures at Christmas time most uplift you?
3. Are there some things you would rather avoid at Christmas?
4. When you think of your relationship to Christ, what do you think God’s feelings are toward you?
5. What is a hindrance in believing in God’s love?
6. How does God help you to show his love to others?
7. When you think of God’s joy, what comes to mind?
8. What in Sunday’s message most struck you?