

A photograph of a forest path with tall trees and sunbeams filtering through the canopy. The path is a dirt road winding through a dense forest of tall, thin trees. Sunbeams are visible, creating a serene and peaceful atmosphere. The overall color palette is dominated by greens and browns, with a soft, ethereal light filtering through the trees.

NO MATTER WHAT

40-day Devotional

by Steve Jarvis

Joy

Learn How to be Joyful No Matter What

Psalms 16:11

Revised 2024

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Day 1
The Pursuit of Joy
Learning to Enter Into the Joy of the Lord

One thing I have learned in a life of ministry work is, the harder I run, the less I accomplish! Whether I am trying to bring people to Christ, discipling people in the Word, or whatever my calling, gifting, even missions, preaching or teaching work, I would miss the most pivotal point of life and in ministry if I am missing joy! If we are running so fast in any area of life, and our joy is missing, we are not accomplishing what God wants us to accomplish.

I realized that despite all of my “ministering”, trying to help myself and others get in order, I was not experiencing the fullness of joy that Jesus promised. I came to understand that if I wanted to have joy, the first thing I must do is admit to God, then to myself, that I did not have and emit joy. Oh, at times I experienced the fullness of God, but the lasting presence of joy was really not there.

Prayer:

If you see yourself in this same predicament in any area of life, pray this prayer with me:

“Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit” - Psalms 51:12

Read this scripture, meditate on it and allow it to speak to your heart. Then stand outside barefoot and talk to the Creator.

Day 2

Narrowing Down the Input

In your pursuit for the fullness of joy, one of the things you will need to do is to stop listening to a lot of preaching, teaching and social media. Ministers and people in general will push many different ideas and propaganda, but YOU must get a single-minded focus on God alone.

I encourage you to stop listening to everything for a while – people, news, teaching and preaching, and all social media. Cut out all music as well. People use music to make you feel that you cannot be deceived if you're in Him. Just cut out all input as much as possible. In fact, I recommend going on an "input fast" for 40 days. Don't listen to anything except scripture, written or digital.

Get your bible and look up Scripture references on joy and let them soak into your spirit. Get you a drink, and when you do, you will know it!

A wise preacher once said, "Spend more time with people with whom you have a common future, instead of a common past."

Prayer:

If you see yourself in this same predicament in any area of life, pray this prayer with me -
"Lord I want to hear joy" (Psalms 51:8) "Lord, I want to hear only what YOU are saying to me. I want to thank You for giving me joy."

John 10:2-38

... ^{3b} and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. ⁴ And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.

Day 3

Too Many Good Things

In our world today, too many Christians are attempting to do too many things, even though those things are good. Our focus is divided, our energy is depleted, and we feel overloaded and overwhelmed because our minds are being bombarded with so many good things that demand our attention and action, especially now with social media.

Let's go to *Psalm 16* and get on our knees. *"O my soul, thou hast said unto the Lord, Thou art my Lord: my goodness extendeth not to thee; But to the saints that are in the earth, and to the excellent, in whom is all my delight. Their sorrows shall be multiplied that hasten after another god: their drink offerings of blood will I not offer, nor take up their names into my lips. The Lord is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot. The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage. I will bless the Lord, who hath given me counsel: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons. I have set the Lord always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore, my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope. For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."*

Let's read, pray, and thank God that, like the psalmist, we can enter into His presence. Spend fifteen minutes simply focusing on God's goodness, just being in His presence, and stop doing even things you think are good. If it is of your own will, it is of the flesh. Stress and anxiety over doing things for God is a good indicator you are out of order.

Prayer:

"Heavenly Father, I take my position in the third heaven with You, and I thank You that I can enter into Your presence where there is fullness of joy. Lord, I come boldly because I need Your help to have joy!"

Hebrews 4:16

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Day 4

Be Still and Get Joy

“In His presence is fullness joy;” so if you are never or seldom spending time in His presence, you cannot expect to have joy.

So today I want you to measure your joy capacity. Is it at 10% or 80%? What makes it rise? What makes it fall?

Ask God to really help you be keenly aware and attentive to your amount of joy. Stop looking at others and what they are or are not doing.

Spend thirty minutes with God just being silent and thankful in your heart. When you do this, watch you joy capacity sky rocket!

Prayer:

“Heavenly Father, I am here to be with You. I remember You said that in Your presence there is fullness of joy. I claim that joy right now!” *Psalm 16:11*

Psalm 16:10

Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

2 Corinthians 10:12

For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

Day 5

Joy Killer #1

Our Joy can be quickly defeated when we are doing one thing, but in our mind, we believe we should be doing something different. Social media can add to this about 1000 times. Take that second thought, the one thing you can't possibly do right now, and give it to the Lord. Two good thoughts at once are not good, especially if it makes you frustrated. The Word of God says that a double-minded man is unstable in all his ways (*James 1:8*). God will rarely tell you to do two good things at once, and never if it causes frustration and steals your joy. Just know, you can do very hard things if you are joyful.

Take a moment and focus on God's goodness to you on whatever project you are doing – don't think about anything else. Renewing your mind with Scripture can be a tremendous help. Read *Romans 12*. Another helpful thing to do is to reflect back on something fun, or something good that happened to you in your past. Probably the one of the best 'God thoughts', if you are married, is one of those times when you had been really intimate with your spouse, and how he or she looked in a certain setting.

Prayer:

"Heavenly Father, my mind is racing out of control. I cry for help! Help me be single-minded and think on good thoughts of You, and in my life, help me change what hinders my thoughts.

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Day 6

A Time to Get Serious

We need to start praying some serious prayers and making some serious declarations! Are there some longing, lagging, or negative thoughts of guilt from sin, or guilty feelings of “I should have done this?” A spirit of guilt does not need a reason to make you feel this way. Get serious and command that spirit of guilt to leave in the name and authority of Jesus.

If you have confessed your sin before the Lord, you really ARE clean. But if you still don’t feel okay with yourself or what you are doing, check out: *1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

I know, know, same old verse. But, hey, it does say all unrighteousness. Now stand up, go outside and stand barefoot in the dirt and say out loud: THIS DAY I (NAME) DECLARE THAT I AM VICTORIOUS, CLEAN, AND FREE BECAUSE JESUS HAS CANCELLED OUT THE CERTIFICATE OF DECREES AND ACCUSATIONS AGAINST ME!

Joy came to me very strongly the first time I did this; so much so, that when I woke up the next morning, I was still overflowing with joy!

Prayer:

“Lord, thank You for not holding me in debt to my guilt.”

Spend some time in prayer and read [Colossians 2](#) until it becomes a part of you.

Day 7

Don't Focus on Failures

Today I want to show you something in the Bible. Take a look at *John 10:10*, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy." As you read this verse, notice the order of what was said there. Jesus says that the thief comes to steal, kill, and to destroy. The order is to steal first, then to kill, and finally to destroy. This has been one of the most life changing things that God has ever shown me!

Listen and understand why "kill" is in the middle, and not the first or the last of this sequence. If the thief can steal your joy, this will effectively kill your faith, and having no faith will destroy your life. *Nehemiah 8:10c*, "for the joy of the Lord is your strength." *Hebrews 11:6a*, "But without faith it is impossible to please him." Joy is the backbone of the Christian life; faith is the circulatory system that keep us pumping; and a joyful life is what is manifested when these two are working together.

One sure way to have your joy stolen is to focus on the mistakes and failures of everyone around you. It may be those in government, or maybe just the world in general, with its problems and sins. Or perhaps it's your church and its ministries.

Don't focus on these things. Let them go because all those things are considered burdens. Focus on Jesus and what He is doing in and through your life today, or even during this hour. He is doing something this very minute: there is a seed of Joy being planted inside of you, so don't let your burdens choke it out.

Prayer:

"Lord, I must be carrying something that is not part of Your burden. I release it to You right now, and I let it go!"

Meditate on:

Matthew 11:30

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Day 8

One Day at a Time

All of us have many projects, plans, ideas and dreams. They can all be good and right things, but right now, it may be hard to get focused on TODAY. You are overwhelmed with trying to do too many projects, especially those you know will be life-changing. You are anxious and worried about something way off in the future.

There are two major things you must do at this point or the problems you have will not decline. First, you must spend time with God reading your bible, writing down only what you have to do today and commit it to God. Second, stop compounding your problems by having too many projects. If you don't, your problems can get too big to handle.

I am convinced that we plan for things that will never happen, and then we worry. So don't start too many things at once or start things you are not supposed to do, and get YOUR one thing done.

God bless you as you do your ONE THING today!

Prayer:

"Lord, help me become single-minded and focused on what I have to do TODAY."

Matthew 6:34

"Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

Day 9

What is Your Body Saying?

I want you to try something new. First thing in the mornings I want you to become conscious of what your body is telling you. Do you feel bad a lot of mornings? Try drinking a little water and don't eat anything until you have peace. Feed your spirit, not your flesh.

➔ Remember, NO PEACE – NO FOOD! Peace is a full brother to joy. A merry heart is like good medicine. *Proverbs 17:22a*

Confrontation always messes with your peace. Try to avoid these things each morning and right before you go to bed. If you don't have peace, you need to take a Saturday and do nothing or go fishing.

Prayer:

"Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus, thank You for making it possible for me to have peace. I receive that peace and joy right now."

Read and mediate on these Scriptures:

John 14:26-27

²⁶ But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

John 15:7

⁷ If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

John 16:23,33

²³ And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. ³³ These things I have spoken unto you, that in

me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Now, all day, just thank Him that you can have peace and joy no matter what happens today!! What are you asking for?

Day 10

For Peace Sake, Throw it Away!

Today I want to encourage you to go through your house, garage, attic, shed, land, etc. and throw or give away junk that is cluttering your household and stealing your joy. Sorry, these things can't be sold in a garage sale. You must cull this stuff from your past that is haunting your future, especially if you come across objects, books, pictures or whatever may have been used for Satan's work. Can inanimate objects be a problem of have power?

As you go through your things, ask the Lord to help you identify things of wickedness. It may be things that a missionary gave you from another country; things that were used to keep people safe or keep evil spirits away. These items you must burn.

Take a quick look at *Deuteronomy 7:25-26* - ²⁵*The graven images of their gods shall ye burn with fire: thou shalt not desire the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it unto thee, lest thou be snared therein: for it is an abomination to the Lord thy God.* ²⁶Neither shalt thou bring an abomination into thine house, lest thou be a cursed thing like it: but thou shalt utterly detest it, and thou shalt utterly abhor it; for it is a cursed thing.

You will never have FULL JOY until these particular items are burned. So often, the reason we have so much junk is because we don't believe God will provide for us in the future.

The real issue here is that all of this stuff is really stealing your time. When you get rid of these things and too many commitments, you will find you are no longer over-committed and your frustration level will decline. *Ephesians 5:15-16* – ¹⁵*See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,* ¹⁶*Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*

In addition, cull some things in your life even if they are good. You don't have to do everything at church. Yes, you can skip church sometimes and spend time with God and your family. Try this on Sunday. Don't' do anything or go anywhere, just spend time with God and your family.

Prayer:

“Lord, I want to be wise with my time. Give me wisdom to show me what You want me to eliminate from my life.”.

As you burn these items and throw these things away, tell the Lord these are my burdens and you are casting them away. Each time you go to the trash pile, thank Him for peace and joy.

Psalm 55:22

²² Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.

Day 11

Take Aim and Don't Blame

OK, so you had a bad day. You tell yourself if this or that would not have happened or if this person had done this, THEN I would have done that. I understand this very well, and I don't want us to step out of reality.

People who are out of order will get you out of order. We must learn what to do when our JOY capacity goes into the negative range. How can we come out of this nose-dive and seize this problem before it happens?! Timeline can be 10 minutes or less to do this.

When you have a day like this, go home and spend about 30 minutes alone in quiet time. Unload on God before spending time with your family. Otherwise, YOU may be the one who is out of order and your children will need this page!

We must spend time with our Heavenly Father, and get to know Him fully. "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." - *John 17:3*

Have you ever thought that everything you have done is in eternity? Spend time with God, stop blaming others and learn to thank Him in everything you are doing. The power from the prayers will go ahead of you, travel to eternity, and will land on you at the time you need it.

Here are thoughts for dealing with 'out of order' people. This will allow you not to blame and remain joyful.

1. If this person is not teachable or stubborn, don't try to correct him. *Proverbs 18:2* -
² A fool hath no delight in understanding, but that his heart may discover itself.
2. If this person is carnal, he can only respond as carnal. *Galatians 5:18-25, Romans 8:6-7, 1 Corinthians 3:1*
3. If this person is lost, he can only respond in a certain way. If they act differently than we believe they should, we will lose our joy, especially when we have not spent time with God. So don't blame the other person for acting normal. Just say to yourself, "Hey, it's normal." And when you respond in joy, that is when victory is yours.

Prayer:

“Heavenly Father, help me spend time with You and realize that people cannot respond differently from who they really are. Thank You for renewing my mind.”

Romans 12:2

² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Day 12

Your Identity is in Christ

Does your joy pivot on what you are doing or with what you have? It's impossible to have joy if your identity does not rest in the Joy Giver. Let's look at *Acts 16* and meditate on it for a few minutes. Imagine with me:

Paul and Silas had just cast a devil out of a girl (they helped her). Next, they were accused of something they did not do. The crowd joined in the accusation and they didn't even know them. The leaders demanded that they be beaten and put them in the inner prison. They had no outside contact, no sunlight and were shackled around their feet. They couldn't move. Its midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing (full joy capacity). Now you read what happens next. I believe that in the entire Bible this is the most accurate picture of a 'joy story', *Acts 16*. Paul and Silas' joy did not pivot on where they were or what had happened, but instead on God, who He is, and who they were in Him. The enemy's foundation was shaken, as Paul and Silas sang for joy.

Prayer:

"Lord, let this same attitude of Paul and Silas be birthed in me. Let me be able to respond the way they did."

Meditate on *Acts 16* for many days!

Day 13

Something for Nothing

I felt like I had to do everything, evangelism, missions, work, etc. or else, I felt that I was doing nothing for God.

I was not having fun or doing any extra things because money was scarce. We scraped to pay the bills and work for God. One day when I was finally exhausted and tormented enough, I asked God what he wanted me to do. His reply really shocked me. God told me to stop everything I was doing. I needed to stop and smell the roses along the way. Read *Psalms 46:10*.

I had fallen into the trap of thinking 'Jesus is coming back and I need to save the world!' You must stop and take time for yourself and your family, and just have fun. Begin to reconstruct your life. Cancel some plans and make new plans that are fun, something that makes you feel good.

Turn everything off – cellphones, social media, etc. and focus on something for nothing. Focus on something of God's creation that is free for us to enjoy. When was the last time you looked at a sunrise or sunset? When have you lain down in a grassy field and looked at the stars at night? When have you taken time to gaze at a beautiful field, garden, lake, stream or ocean? What about staring at snow-capped mountains with a blanket of fog as you hear the birds singing or water running at the bottom of a canyon? The creation is what God made for us to enjoy. This is something for nothing at no cost.

Now you will need to take time, have some fun, and look at God's creation. You will learn something about Him. Read all of *Isaiah 55* and really focus on *verse 12*.

Prayer:

"Lord, help me remove the things you want me to remove. Help me Lord, to enjoy life and to be a witness for You and Your goodness. Thank You Lord for helping me take some time for me and my family.

Meditate on this verse (things that are made)

Romans 1:20

²⁰ For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

Psalms 8:3-4

³ When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; ⁴ What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

Day 14

It's Ok to Mess Up

You should block any joy leeches, but one major thing to do, is to allow yourself and others to make mistakes. There is a law that is in our body; when we get weak, we make mistakes. This is why Jesus Christ came to set us free. It is not an instant process. *Romans 7:15* (or read the whole chapter) and *Psalms 32*.

We respond out of what we know and how and what we have been taught, and I also believe we respond just as much from our experiences and the way we have been treated. Joy is quickly removed when we make mistakes or when we are involved in the mistakes of others. We begin to feel a certain way – it could be fearful, anxious or defeated. It's as I you sense "My mind is clear, my body is okay, but my emotions are dragging me somewhere that I do not want to go." My statement is this – "sticks and stones will not break my bones, but daddy's words will kill me!" So, our emotions need salvation!! If you want your emotions to be saved, you will it so.

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:23 and note that man has three parts: spirit, soul, and body. Your soul also has three parts: mind, will, and emotions.

I want us to pray a prayer that will bring some healing or salvation to the third part of our soul – how we feel, our emotions. Our emotions could be fragmented simply by the way someone calls or says our name. A certain feeling is evoked, and ends up stealing our joy. Maybe we really did not even understand that it happened.

Prayer:

"Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus, I command every fragmented emotion that is mine to return to me, make me whole, and the person You created me to be. Lord, as my emotions return to me, I plead the blood of Jesus over each one. As they come back to me, make feel like You want me to feel, just as You designed me to feel. Thank You for healing my emotions so that may respond to others like Christ did. Lord, I also forgive anyone who has spoken harsh words or treated me wrongly at any time in my life, and I release them to You. I thank You that You are the restorer of my soul."

If any names come to your mind, write them down on paper, forgive them and release them to God. Now put the paper in the trash. Read *Romans 10:13* – Call on Jesus; cry out and thank Him for healing your emotions. Speak it so. Read *Romans 10:8* and *1 Thessalonians 3:23*. Meditate on *Ephesians 1:3* and *Psalms 42:3*.

Isaiah 49:13

¹³ Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the LORD hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted.

Psalms 42:5

⁵ Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance.

Psalms 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. ³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. ⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. ⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Day 15

Learn to Praise the Lord

If, on any given day, you are having trouble entering into the presence of the Lord, this is what you need to do. Turn on your favorite praise music, get by yourself, and just praise God for who He is. Thank Him for what He has done, what He is doing, and what He is going to do. This is the joy of your salvation; so raise your hands and lift your heart to the Lord. Do this by emptying your thoughts and desires to God and letting your heart be soft and tender toward God. Attempt to be full of nothing but thankfulness, and just praise Him for the joy He has given you!

Psalm 9: 1-2

As you begin to praise Him, just say, “Lord, let Your joy flood my soul.” Realize this – If you are frustrated about what God has done for you, If you are worried about what God’s will is for you, and you feel like you do not know what God wants, know this for sure – IT IS GOD’S WILL FOR YOU TO PRAISE HIM!! Don’t make it so hard on yourself and just praise the Lord.

Prayer:

“Lord, I thank You for being the Person that You are. I thank You that You are working to make me the joyful child and representative of Your joyful kingdom here on earth. Amen”

Psalm 30:5b

⁵weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.

→ Read Psalm 50:14-15

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

¹⁶ Rejoice evermore. ¹⁷ Pray without ceasing. ¹⁸ In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning _____ (insert your name here)

Ask the Lord to reveal what is blocking you from receiving the Joy of the Holy Spirit!

Day 16

Praying in the Spirit

Do you ever feel like there are so many things to do and so many things to pray about that you get overloaded? I am going to help you empty your load. If you spend any time at all in prayer, and if you are seeking the Lord, your prayer list will fill up rather quickly, especially as busy as we are in this timeframe on earth. This has really exploded since Covid 19 was introduced. I want to teach you how to pray in the spirit. *Romans 8:26b "...but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."*

When you are overloaded, overwhelmed, and you don't know what to say or how to pray, something very serious has just happened, like someone is very ill. You need to get by yourself, go for a walk, or go in your closet. Focus on the Lord and thank Him for teaching you to allow the spirit to pray through you and for you. When you pray in the spirit, just render all your thoughts to the Lord. Let your mind go blank, but not empty. You want your thoughts to be filled with what the spirit wants to pray. Your mind should be "unfruitful", which means that it should not be conceiving or producing any thoughts.

Open your mouth and say, "Lord, I don't want anything that is not from You." Ask Him to allow you to pray in the spirit. Open your mouth and pray as the spirit gives you utterance. When you pray this way, you are sending a signal to the heavens, to God. In your spirit you are saying, "I want to pray for something correctly, Lord, and empty myself." Your mind should still be unfruitful. As you send out a signal in tongues, soon thoughts should be coming back. It is like sonar sending out a signal to the bottom of the ocean, bouncing back with what it reads. So, you pray in the spirit, sending out a signal, then you pray with understanding.

The language you pray, you will not understand. You will have joy in this prayer time because you will have a desire to pray. You will edify yourself. You will know in your heart that God heard you. You will cover all the prayers that are in your heart. You will pray so specific that it will amaze you.

Just remember, it's like sonar; pray in tongues but don't stay in tongues.

Prayer:

“Heavenly Father, I want everything You have for me. I want to pray in the spirit. Help me pray in the spirit and teach me Lord how to pray.”

1 Corinthians 14:14-15

- ¹⁴ *For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.*
¹⁵ *What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.*

Day 17

Stay Away and Watch What You Say

In the process of learning to walk in joy you are going to have to stay away from negative people for a season, and watch what you say about them. Because pretty soon, if you start making statements about a person, you then go to full blown slander or gossip. Sin will always drain your joy capacity, like shooting a bucket of water with a shotgun, one big bang and a whole bunch of drain. *Proverbs 21:23* says, “*Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.*” I believe that if we learn how to enter into the joy of the Lord, it will become a habit. A habit is something you are addicted to. Don’t you want to be addicted to joy?

When you get around negative people it becomes very easy to get caught up in unprofitable conversations. *Job 27:3-4* - ³ *All the while my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils;* ⁴ *My lips shall not speak wickedness, nor my tongue utter deceit.*

Learn to build an accountability system so that, should you get caught with someone who begins to speak negatively, you can quickly make eye contact with your partner, and neither of you will fall into the same snare. This works really great as a husband-and-wife team. Read *Psalms 17:3-4*. Ask God to help you find people who are positive and full of joy; listen to them, talk with them, call them, pray with them, have them pray for you to have joy. Have them lay hands on you, anoint you with oil, and to be filled with the joy of the Lord. Listen to ministers of the Word who are teaching on promises, covenants, and the goodness of God.

Prayer:

“Father, help me be attentive to my words and catch them before they go across my lips. Deliver me out of the hands of the wicked, from those who speak perverse things, men and women of bloodshed and bring me into a high place where righteousness dwells.”

Psalms 141:3

Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.

Day 18

It Really is a Demon

You are moving through your day and everything is well. Then, suddenly, you realize you are in a really bad mood, or depressed, or don't feel like doing anything. No matter what you do, you just can't get into motion. Demonic oppression is probably the source of the problem. Read *Ephesians 6* and *2 Corinthians 10*.

Pray this prayer out loud in your home and speak these things to your body, soul and spirit: "Heavenly Father, my joy has been stolen. In the name and authority of Jesus, I take authority over everything that You have entrusted to me – my spouse, my body, my children, etc. I command, in the name of Jesus, any factious, negative, bad attitude or joy stealing spirit to leave my household and me alone. Thank you, Lord."

Spend a little time just praising God for who He is. You should do this especially if you have experienced something or someone really negative. They may be leaving these spirits with you. Pray in the spirit and rejoice that your name is written in heaven.

Prayer:

"Lord, I want to experience joy such as the disciples experienced when they came back from casting out demons. But let me be mindful that my name is written in heaven."

Luke 10:17

¹⁷ And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

Day 19

Trained to Have No Joy

Isaiah 40:31 – “But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

We, in the western world, can't wait for anything. We have spent twenty years or more learning how NOT to be joyful, and then we realize we need change and we expect change now! Let's say that you are doing great, then something happens and you really do something you should not have done. You simply need to confess your impatience and lack of faith, or whatever sin you have committed, then ask the Lord for help. Wait on Him to pour His joy on you.

As you go through your day, I want you to thank God for the little things – things like tying your children's shoes, making pancakes, have a good pet, or even visiting with someone for a short time. It is alright to thank God for the big things through the day also.

Begin to thank Him for everything – even the bad. Wait on Him to fill you with His joy. It will come – He promised. Remind God of His promise to you – that if you wait on Him, He will give you strength, and strength is joy. *Romans 8:28* ²⁸ And we know that... These first four words are the most important part of this scripture. They are seldom quoted but if you don't know that, the rest of the verse is meaningless to you.

Prayer:

“Father, I need you to teach me how to have joy and to be thankful. Help me to understand the first four words of Romans 8:28.”

Romans 8:28

²⁸ *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

Day 20

Wall Mover

I want to talk about times when it seems as though nothing works to move your joy capacity upward. I want to share with you a way that works really well for removing these walls and barriers. Take your Bible and write all scriptures that will help you chisel away at your walls, and fasting while using scriptures is like using a sledge hammer on your chisel. For instance, if your wall is fear, memorize *2 Timothy 1:7, Psalm 27, Proverbs 3:24-26*.

Read *Genesis 1*. Notice that it was evening, then morning. To start your fast, you want to start in the evening. Eat any time while it is daylight, but when the sun goes down, don't eat anything until the next evening when the sun sets. Throughout the day, if your body tells you you're hungry, tell your flesh to be quiet. Read those scriptures you have written down. You want to take these verses with you wherever you go. You are fasting to have joy. Make statements about yourself that you WANT to be true, even though as of now it's not happening. Stay with it; you are changing (*Matthew 6:16-18*)!

Read *Matthew 17:14-21* and notice that it is 'by prayer and fasting.' The prayer and fasting moves our unbelief out; then whatever needs to change must move?? God said it! If you have the faith as a mustard seed, you can speak to that mountain, and it will be cast into the sea. Stay with it, and your wall will be removed.

Now take the Word and feed on it through the night and day. Call those things that are not as though they are. *Romans 4:17b* – "...even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were."

Prayer:

"Heavenly Father, I am going to be the most joyful person on the earth, in Jesus' Name."

2 Corinthians 1:18-20

¹⁸ But as God is true, our word toward you was not yea and nay.

¹⁹ For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us, even by me and Silvanus and Timotheus, was not yea and nay, but in him was yea.

²⁰ For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

Day 21

Expecting God to Move

We must be excited about what God is going to do. Stop looking inward and start looking outward. We are going to have trials, tribulations (*James 1:2-3*), and many ups and downs, but God is faithful (*2 Timothy 2:13*). If we could keep this one single thought in the forefront of our mind, I believe we would stay in joy. Here is the thought, “I’m not always going to be where I am. God is working for me and I am looking for God’s hand to move in my life. He has also predestined me for good works according to *Ephesians 2:10*. *Hebrews 12:2* declares to me that He is the author and finisher of my faith.

Read about Caleb and Joshua in *Numbers 13:30*. They said, “Let’s go up at once and possess the Land.” Caleb, a Gentile, saw the giants just as all the other spies did. But look how the outcome for Caleb pivoted based on his response to the situation. Caleb said, “Let’s go up at once.”

So, “let’s go up at once” and kill what Satan is using to steal our joy. Rise and conquer! *Romans 8:37* tells us that we are more than conquerors in Christ Jesus. Now I am going to say one word, which could be your ‘giant’ and let’s see what happens to your joy...MONEY! It’s not the money that kills your joy when your finances are out of order; It’s your attitude and what you believe about your finances. In Caleb’s day, the land was flowing with milk and honey and it took two men to carry a cluster of grapes (*Numbers 13:30*). But it was the ‘giant’ mindset that kept them from conquering. Life consists of more than what you have, but if you have the whole earth and no joy, you have nothing. Conquer what is stealing your joy!

Prayer:

“Lord, help me see my giants as good as dead, but yet while they live!”

Romans 8:37

³⁷ Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Day 22

Being Secure

There are three main areas the enemy can use to steal your joy.

#1 - Family Relationships

If someone in your family has the ability to be a joy killer, this is what you do. You need to release that person unto God. Make sure that you do not harbor any bitterness towards them. Read *Hebrews 12:15*. After you are released in your spirit, ask God to remind you to pray for this person often. Make this a long-term goal and tell God you don't want them stepping into eternity being out of order. You also can set boundaries and wait for the right time to share with them. Ask God to discipline them and bring them to a place of godly sorrow. In *2 Corinthians:7-10a* – “*For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation, not to be repented of...*”

#2 - Well-meaning Believers of our Lord and Savior

If you have looked around, you have noticed that there are 50 billion beliefs of what the Bible says and how and what we should do with our lives. Some believers want us to believe like them so they will feel more secure in what they believe. Here is a rule to live by: If the person who is trying to give you help or direction does not have joy, be careful not to follow what they say. No joy...Oh boy, please watch out for legalism. It is a joy killer. *Galatians 5*.

#3 - You and your Insecurity

You need to know what the Bible says and what you believe. Be restful towards God on the hard areas of the Bible. If people do not believe the same as you do, or you don't see the same as they do, don't get frustrated. Know what YOU believe and be able to back it up with the Word of God. Stand in peace and let gentleness flow out of you as you share.

Read *1 Peter 1:1-12*.

Prayer:

“Lord, don't let me be a person who is a joy killer to other believers. Thank You, that the fruit of the Spirit is love, peace and JOY! And that they are all mine. Lord, help me in these three hard areas. If I need to repent, open my eyes and give me grace to do so.”

Colossians 1:9-11

⁹ *For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;*

¹⁰ *That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;*

¹¹ *Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;*

->Read **Galatians 3:22-23**

Day 23

Seek God in All Things

Stop trying to divide up “God's work” and “your work”. Walk in the spirit and realize that it is all God's work, whether it's preaching to thousands, playing with your children, working at your job, fishing or just having fun. Realize that God designs life and every part of it for you, so be thankful and joyful in everything you do. For years I heard people say we need to be in the center of God's will. Wondering whether you are in God's will tends to steal your joy because you will always worry whether you're doing the right thing. God calls this being double-minded. (*James 1:7*)

1st Thessalonians 5:16-18 tells you exactly what God's WILL is in your life. ¹⁶ *Rejoice evermore.* ¹⁷ *Pray without ceasing,* ¹⁸ *In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

I remember leaving for the Philippines to speak to pastors. I was excited, busy, rushed, and everything else that goes along with travelling around the world and ministering. My son called out to me. “Dad, will you tie my shoe?” As I knelt down to tie his shoe, the Lord said to me, “This is Kingdom works.”

Prayer:

“Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus, open the eyes of my heart that I may see that every good and perfect gift comes from you and to realize that it is all Kingdom works.”

Memorize these scriptures:

2 Peter 1:3a

³ *According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness...*

Ecclesiastes 3:22a

²² *Wherefore I perceive that there is nothing better, than that a man should rejoice in his own works; for that is his portion:*

Day 24

Who Are you?

If you do not know whether or not you are a child of God, or you think you have lost your salvation, it is impossible for you to have joy. Just think, how can you receive joy if you do not believe you are connected to the Joy Giver? You cannot change the DNA makeup of your genetic father on earth even if you do not know who he is. Read *Romans 1:20*.

You cannot change the “Holy Ghost DNA” when you are born from above. Read *John 3:3*. Just as your DNA cannot change from your earthly father, oh, how much more it cannot change from your heavenly Father. The devil will wear you out with this idea. You will never come into the fullness of secure joy without the understanding of your relationship to God through Jesus Christ.

Remember in *John 10:10* it says that Satan comes to destroy. This is an order: steal your joy, kill your faith and destroy your life. There is not a faster way for your joy to be removed than for the thought to enter your mind that you are not God's child. When your joy leaves, you won't have faith for much longer. You will start making ‘destroyed-life decisions’. To cut this off at the pass before it happens, lift your hands to the Father in heaven and thank him that you are His child eternally!

No matter how you feel or what is happening, joy is entering into God's presence. It is the strength to go through every day and night, the good and the bad, especially now through the fall of 2024. *Psalms 16:11 - ¹¹Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.*

Faith is trusting God through the things that we have no control over and relying on what he has already said about the situation through His word. These two things combined make up life.

John 17:3 - ³And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

Prayer:

“Heavenly Father, help me understand who I am and who You are...and to know I am Your child.”

Romans 1:20

²⁰ For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

1 John 5:13

¹³ These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

Day 25

Lost Time Brings Frustration

OK, I had joy, but where did it go? I'm not living in sin, and my heart wants to walk where God wants me to walk. I looked at my goals and I read a scripture verse *Hebrews 12:1* that say, "*lay every weight and sin aside*", another verse *Philippians 3:19* says, "*press on for the prize*". I realized I was frustrated and needed to lay aside some weights that were stealing my joy.

Are there are some things that are not prospering in your work play hobbies, ministries, etc.? God wants to take the things that are stealing your time and causing you to be unfruitful. He wants to turn that time into something productive. When you are productive. It helps you feel good about life. Money usually plays a big role and lost time. If you had the money, one of two things would have taken place: #1 the project would've gotten bigger or #2 the project would have already been finished. It's not that the project you want to do is wrong, it's just that it became a weight because it's not the right time.

It's like buying cows before your fence is up or buying materials to start an addition on your house without having a plan. Step back from your dream, goal, or project and take a good look at it. Start with what you want the finished product to be and plan how to get there. Begin to pray about the project, write down scriptures, draw plans, take council and count the cost. Frustration will leave when you are in order with your time.

It's not that your dream project or goal is not right, but maybe you have them out of order. You can drive all over the country and, as you pass by homes, you can see the projects that were started and never finished. Did they have too many projects started or are they out of order in some other way? So before you start another time killer, start small, pray long and be in agreement with your spouse or mentor. *James 3*.

If your eyes are opened to see the project is never going to be out of order, you need to lay the axe to the root. Read *Luke 13:6-9*. But don't let it steal anymore time this could be a humbling experience (*James 4:10*), but realize you can humble yourself in the presence of God where Joy is.

Prayer:

"Heavenly Father, help me to realize that the wisdom that comes from above is first, pure and peaceable. Help me to see the things I need to change , the things that are stealing my time, and help me to humble myself and admit these projects are dead works."

James 4:10

¹⁰ *Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.*

Day 26

Focus on What Matters in Life

It's time to look at what really matters in life. These things are god family, good character, and good times. Do you need to re-examine your priorities? Life is when joy permeates your soul. We strive to gain wealth and titles, and we miss what really matters. *Matthew 16:26* says, "*For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?*"

What really matters is DO YOU HAVE JOY? If you do not have joy, there is something out of order between you and God. I personally believe that Jesus was joyful; therefore people wanted to be with Him. When is the last time someone asked you, "Why are you or your family so happy?" "They are always joyful and smiling." Do people see joy in you and your family? Do you have abundant life? Do you have a joyful family or is it a wreck? Would you say you have good character or are you lacking integrity? Would you classify your life as miserable or fulfilled?

Prayer:

"Lord, I want to be recognized as a child of God because I have joy. Your word says that You are the author and the finisher, so let me finish each day full of joy."

John 17:13

¹³ And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

Day 27

Letting People be Who They Are

We must learn to love people even though they are out of order or they are not where they should be spiritually. You will have a hard time living in joy if you have certain negative thought patterns towards other people. What I mean by this is, when you come in contact with certain people and your mind begins to play a tape that says, “Oh that's 'ole so and so, and they did this or that. You know, things would be so much better for them if they would change.”

You need to stop that tape in your mind and begin to examine yourself. Do you have joy when you have this conversation with yourself? You are really judging them, so judgment is upon you when you are judging another person. You can't live on joy. *Romans 2:1*. You need to simply live your own life and not worry about someone else's life. You are not responsible for their actions; however, you are responsible to pray for them. Ask God to restore your mind in this area so that you can begin to think on things that are joyful and pray for others that are out of order, instead of having a negative tape playing in your mind.

We need to pray this.

Prayer:

“Heavenly Father, help me to think on whatsoever is pure and whatsoever is lovely.”

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

¹¹ And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; ¹² That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.

Day 28

Do You Physically Feel Bad

Do you really feel bad physical? One of the hardest things to do is to be joyful when you don't feel good let me share some things that will work in your life. You must learn that the reason you feel bad is because of the dark kingdom you can learn how to take charge of your life, there are basically 12 open doors that the enemy can use to come in and cause problems in your spirit, soul or body.

They are:

- ➔ Bitterness (unresolved anger) -- *Ephesians 4:26-27, Hebrews 12:15, Matthew 18*
- ➔ Pride (building life around self) -- *Proverbs 16:5*
- ➔ Rebellion (doing something on purpose to manipulate a certain response out of another person) -- *1 Samuel 15:23*
- ➔ Temporal values (an intense focus on things that are not lasting temporary personal possessions) -- *James 4*
- ➔ Immorality (any sexual conduct outside of marriage) -- *1 Corinthians 6:16*
- ➔ Generalities Iniquity (iniquities are one of all of the above open doors lived out in one's life with no repentance, causing other people to fall and leaving no other path known for children to follow And dying without change this is idolatry) -- *Exodus 20*
- ➔ Occultist activity (whether full-blown or just dabbling, willful or unwilling, or knowing or unknowing, doing anything that is in direct connection with Satan's kingdom just as a Ouija board, Harry Potter, horoscopes palm, reading, mediums and keeping of idols in one's home) -- *Deuteronomy 7:25, Isaiah 47:9*
- ➔ Negative thought patterns (always thinking the worst about everything) -- *Philippians 4:6-10*
- ➔ Love of Money -- *1 Timothy 6:10*
- ➔ Naive – *Hosea 4:6*
- ➔ Sinful habits (things that you choose to do over and over again that are not pleasing to God) *Romans 12:1*
- ➔ Fear (unhealthy fear of life, circumstances, health, etc.) – *1 John 4:18*

When you feel bad, it's hard to be joyful. Joy works like good medicine -- *Proverbs 17:22*. Take a Bible and diagnose yourself with these 12 doors. Build a prescription from God's word for yourself. Faith comes by hearing and hearing the Word of God - *Romans 10:17*. Read, listen and talk to people who have no doubt about healing. Take charge, make changes, and have an elder annoy you with oil. Have him lay hands on you - *James 5:14*.

Quit worrying about the food you are eating and pay attention to the words you are speaking - *Matthew 15:11-20*. It's not food that makes you feel bad. It's the words you have heard yourself or others speak that was not good for you. Out of the mouth come blessings and cursing - *James 3:10*. Stop trying all kinds of stuff to make you feel better and enter into the joy of the Lord - He has everything you need. Healing is yours.

Prayer:

"Heavenly Father, open the eyes of my heart to show me why I feel bad. Thank you for healing me and showing me the paths of life."

Matthew:15-11

¹¹ Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man.

Day 29

Stayed on Thee

Don't let what people do with the gospel message bother you. Leave it in the hands of the Lord. Share when the Lord tells you to share and don't share if you are not led to (no sense in feeding pigs with pearls). *Matthew 7:6* guides you to pray this, for everyone, whether you share or not, open the eyes of their hearts, Lord and send them a messenger." Be joyful about the outcome and read *Psalms 97*. It is not your job to save the whole world or give direction to everyone about what you think. The gospel message really says. By now, you have probably noticed that some believers or groups of believers are not entirely in God's order. Don't get heavily burdened with them. The Bible says heresies will come (*2 Peter 2:1*). You must not, and I mean not, look at people and let your mind start flowing with a lot of negative thoughts about what they believe. *Isaiah 26:3* says, *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee*. Remember that Joy is one of the most important things in a believers' life.

Prayer:

"Lord, help me to stay out of things that are not my business, and when I am faced with believers that are out of order, let me realize that you want to help them, but maybe not through me. Let me be able to pray for them without allowing my heart to be overrun with negative thoughts, so that I am ineffective in my prayers for them and lose my joy."

Philippians 4:6-7

⁶ *Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.* ⁷ *And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

Day 30

Joy in Decision-Making

In life, there are many decisions to be made and when you get married, they multiply! We must make many decisions about where we are going to live, what we believe, what we are going to do with our lives, job, and so forth.

Whenever you have multiple thoughts to do many good things, such as ministry, changing a job, mission work, or a family decision, the full proof way to make the right decision each time is to try using Joy as a measuring tool.

If you are married, go to your spouse, if you are single go to your mentor, share the idea with them. If an argument starts, or you feel frustrated or not in agreement and get tense with one another, you can know for sure that the idea is not God's plan for you. If you lose your joy, you can automatically know that it is not a wise decision

Imagine veins bulging out of your neck, your spouse faces red, the kids are scrambling for cover, and the phone rings and in sweet voice you say, "hello". The person on the other line asks how are you doing and you say, "I am fine". I'll bet your joy capacity is in the negative range and you just lied. Realize right then and there that no matter how much of a good thing it may be, if you don't have joy, don't do it. *James 3:17 says, But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.*

Realize that Jesus said a house divided against itself cannot stand and not even Satan's kingdom would stand divided: *Matthew 12:25*

Prayer:

"Heavenly Father, help me realize when I have an idea and my spouse or mentor doesn't agree with me not to be prideful and hurt my relationship with them, but go away and spend more time in prayer about the idea."

Matthew:12:25

²⁵ *And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:*

Day 31

Stuff

If the joy of the Lord is your strength, as Nehemiah 8:10 says, do you believe that you need joy? If there is no joy in your home, you need to stop everything and reevaluate your life. What is the point of doing all this “stuff” when there is really no joy in your life? Remember that the devil comes to steal your joy, kill your faith, and destroy your life. If there is no joy in your home, it’s probably you. And you wonder why your children do not have faith, and why your spouse has no life. Ask the Lord to show you what you need to lay aside to get your household in order. You may even need to cast out some devils.

If you are in a heavily out of order household, you are going to need to take authority over the enemy and get mature believers to help you, it can be done in Jesus’ name. The Bible says to lay every weight and sin aside -- *Hebrews 12:1*. A weight is something that hinders you while you run. I watch people kill themselves and their spouse for a nice house, nice cars, and a bunch of stuff, then they divorce each other and it gets sold to another person who enjoys it. Read *Deuteronomy 28*. Learn to measure the joy capacity of your household, your children, and your spouse and make appropriate changes.

Prayer:

“Lord, help me realize if my household has no joy and if it’s out of order, show me the changes I need to make and give me the grace and wisdom to do something about it. Amen.”

Proverbs 17:1

Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife.

Day 32

Order of Sowing and Reaping

If you want tomatoes, you cannot plant okra seed if you want join your life you must sew with God.

Planting good seeds is very important, but much more important than that, is the type of soil in which they are planted. Read *Psalms 16* and ask God to break up the fallow ground of your heart. A word of caution, do not ask people to help you who do not have joy. Read *Proverbs 25:19*. Some people would not know joy if it ran over them. They believe happiness is joy, and most of the time happiness results from good things happening. But joy is well-being of the mind, will and emotions, with an added excitement that something great is going to take place no matter what has happened.

No matter where you are in your life, you can have the fruits of the spirit, love, peace, and joy. If you plant money seeds toward helping others to have joy, you will reap what you sow. You need to listen to and be around joyful people. Listen to joyful music and read books on joy – these are all seeds. Now read *Matthew 13* and think about joy as the seed in the parable.

If you are sewing into a ministry, and you want to know if it's good soil, just look at the fruit of the ministry. If the leader has joy, the family has joy. If they are disciples and people's lives are being changed, it is good soil.

Make sure when you sow your joy seeds you, you claim God's promises for joy to come up in your life. Read *Galatians 6:7-9*.

Prayer:

"Thank you, God for the joy of allowing us to succeed thank you that someone else can water them and you are the one who gives the greatest increase."

Jeremiah 4:3

³ *This is what the Lord says to the people of Judah and to Jerusalem:
“Break up your unplowed ground and do not sow among thorns.*

Day 33

Finances, Are You Happy Now?

It seems like nothing can steal your joy faster than finances, especially when you don't have any. The Bible says in *John 10:10* that Satan comes to steal (your) joy kill (your) faith and destroy (your) life. If there is no joy, there is no strength, no faith, no promises, no kingdom life or manifestation of these things. *3 John 1:2, Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.*

Ask yourself this question, "How did my joy get stolen along with my money and how do I get both of them back?" The answer is simple. Stop everything you are doing. Sit down with your spouse or mentor and take a deep breath. Do not even discuss what you are going to do about your money. Look at your spouse or mentor and speak a word of blessing over there. Say this to them, "You are going to be the most joyful person on the earth." Just praise the Lord for a little while. Do you feel the power of the Holy Spirit? Keep praising and realizing that right now, where you are in your finances, is only temporary. Read the scripture that says, "*I will never leave you nor forsake you*", and realize that this scripture in context is talking about money. (*Hebrews 13:5*). Do you feel your joy capacity rising? Praise the Lord a little while, sing to the Lord, or put some good praise music on. Tell yourself, "It's just money." Money can only get you by in life, but it is joy that gets you through. *Psalms 30:5b -- ... weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.*

Prayer:

"Heavenly father, Thank You that Your word is forever settled in heaven. Thank You that Your word says that you will never leave me or forsake me. Help me to not covet and send me my inheritance."

Proverbs 30:7-9

⁷ *“Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die: ⁸ Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: ⁹ Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the Lord? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.”*

Day 34

The Abundant Life

In *John 10:10* Jesus says, *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

Abundant life means “above the ordinary” or “more than enough”. So what is the abundant life? In the world we chase money, believing that in four or five years, we will be financially “on our way.” But in reality, our finances can be stolen through wrong decisions, misplaced motives and selfish ambition, family, or government. It is not that God does not want you to be where you, or whether in a big house or small house, a big business or a small business, or being a preacher or a missionary. God does not have some hidden plan that maybe you might or might not find out, you plan your life spend time with God and he will direct your path. *Proverbs 16:1-3* says, “¹ *The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the Lord.* ² *All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the Lord weigheth the spirits.* ³ *Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established.* The real question is whether on the journey of life, from point A to point Z, did you, are you, and will you have joy?

Your family reflects what is really in your heart. “I repeat”, “people race to get to a certain place, then get a divorce, and everything they thought they needed, someone else now lives in or has.” And just about the time they come out of that, they start getting established again, their children are old enough to start making really bad decisions. Then they spend the next ten years trying to bail them out, and on and on, the destroyed lifecycle continues. Read *Deuteronomy 28:30–33*. We do not have to live under that curse because Jesus became a curse for us. This scripture is very powerful. We need to realize we could miss the abundant life God has for us. So, no matter if we are grandparent, parent or child, nobody wants to walk through what this scripture speaks of because your joy capacity will be negative. The abundant life is a joyful life!! The abundant life is having joy in your marriage, joy in your children, joy in your family, etc., and knowing that your life is secure in Christ. No matter what happens you have more than enough joy to override the evils and the trials of the day. Just think - Jesus said, “you could have His joy” (*John 15:11*). The one single, most important factor in obtaining abundant life is spending time with God. If there is joy and the presence of God (*Psalms 16*), then we need to draw near to Him.

James 4:8 says... "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded." (double soul)

God wants us to have abundance in every area of life. If we have an area in our life that is not yielded to God, this is where our joy will be stolen faster than anywhere else. Make sure you have joy on the journey of life, or you will not stand by faith on the promises of God very long. The next step is the destroyed life. Evaluate your life and spend time with God. Pray in the spirit for time and then pray this prayer:

Prayer:

"Heavenly Father, I thank you that no matter where I am in life, I can step out of death into life through the power of your word in Jesus' name, and I don't have to live under the curse. Amen."

Galatians 3:13

¹³ *"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:"*

Day 35

Foundation for the Future

Jeremiah 8:10c – “...for the joy of the Lord is your strength”

Are you seeing that joy is one of the most vital things in your Christian walk? By now, you should recognize that you either have joy or you don't have joy. You should have the ability to notice when joy comes and when it leaves, why it stays or why it leaves. Realize that joy was the power source for Jesus to go to the cross for us. Read *Hebrews 12:1-2*. Joy is our strength to finish well. Learning deep truths from the scriptures and learning to see types and patterns will help you grow to love God more, love His word more, and love others joyfully. These truths will help us to be joy givers, and learn how to make a difference in others. We need to examine ourselves and make sure that we are not joy killers for others. If we are, we must ask God to help us to be truthful, to repent, and learn to change. Are we always trying to point out religious truth to everyone, but with no love or compassion? Be careful that Satan is not using you as a tool to steal their joy.

We must have these three foundations in our lives:

1. We must love others instead of stealing their joy. It encourages them to seek God.
2. We must have the peace of God in the trials of life. It helps others see faith in action.
3. We must have joy in the journey of every day living. It gives others a picture of the abundant life in Jesus.

Prayer:

“Lord, thank you for giving me the foundation and ability to live out the joyful abundant life.”

1 Corinthians 3:11

¹¹ *For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

Day 36

A Look at a Destroyed Life

1 Corinthians 6:15

Samson was a Nazarite who had a covenant with God. He made a vow to God and started out great, but how was his life lived out? The number one thing that will cause you to live out a destroy life is the evil woman. She can do more damage in one night than a whole army can do in a week. Samson was able to possess the gates of his enemies (Judges 16:3) and even strong enough to sleep in his enemies' camp. He literally picked up the gates of his enemies and carried them away. But because of immorality, he spent most of his life blind and strapped to a grinding wheel for the enemy, grinding their wheat for their bread (Judges 16:21).

Apply this to your own life and be on guard of this particular sin, the sin of immorality. It steals your joy, kills your faith, and destroys your life and those around you like no other sin.

Prayer:

"Lord, help me to flee from immorality, no matter how strong I am."

1 Corinthians 6:16-20

*¹⁶ What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body?
for two, saith he, shall be one flesh.*

¹⁷ But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

*¹⁸ Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he
that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.*

*¹⁹ What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost
which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*

*²⁰ For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body,
and in your spirit, which are God's.*

Day 37

Do You Have Fun?

The Bible says God has given us all things to enjoy - see *1 Timothy 6:17*

Do you have a hobby or is your life crowded with, I have to do this, I have to do that, this must be finished, I must go here, I must go there? You will wake up one day and your life will be spent without memories that are joyful. I remember a grown man who never really got to do much as a child, not that he had had a bad childhood, but he just never got to do much. I remember watching him as we entered into games with other children. It was like he was a child, but only five times as big as everyone else. It was funny in a way, but also sad in a way because the opportunity for fun just passed by him and his parents.

Stop today, do something fun with family or friends, and don't feel like you have to say anything religious. Just have a joyful time. One time a month, have a "something FUN day". Do something that is clean and joyful with people you care about and develop a hobby that you thoroughly enjoy. This is a great tool for building joyful memories that we or our loved ones need in this world. Having fun in kingdom work. Jesus attended fun celebrations and God gave us the emotions to feel joyful, to feel excited, happy, to laugh and have fun. Do you not believe He wants us to use all these great emotions He gave us? Find something fun to do and, if you are wealthy, help someone else accomplish a dream or a goal and help them have fun too!

Prayer:

"Lord, help me to stop and have fun and see deeply into people so that I can help them enjoy life."

1 Timothy 6:17–19

¹⁷ Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

¹⁸ That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; ¹⁹ Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

Day 38

Doing What God Wants

Doing what God wants is where you will find the most joy. You may ask, “What does God want me to do?” Well, I do not know. I believe our lives have become frustrated by well-meaning people and statements like, “God has called me to preach or teach, etc.”, or this statement, “God has called me”, haunt many. But, in reality, they are doing something that they do well and are fulfilled in doing and it is edifying to others. It is a great thing to be a preacher, missionary, or an evangelist, but we do not need to feel condemned because we are doing those things.

Let us take a look at *Psalms 23*: “*The Lord is your shepherd; you shall not want.*” Want means to lack, so don’t feel like you were lacking if you are not in full-time ministry. The Lord makes you to lie down in green pastures (a new place, a new beginning, with new growth). He leads you beside still waters (the running water of God that has been stilled in your life to give you rest and JOY). He restores your soul (makes you think, act, and feel whole).

Now finish reading *Psalms 23* and enter into a time of prayer. It is not what God wants you to do. It is not what God wants you to DO; it is what He wants you to BE -- that is of first importance. And this is it: *1 Thessalonians 5:16-18* – have faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, love, and flee immorality. Rejoice, pray, and be thankful (see *2 Peter 2:5–11*). This is God’s will. God wants our lives to be set apart, and to be Holy, to be joyful in whatever we do. Then we will do well, because whatever we do will be born out of these qualities. An example of a man who lived this way is King David. He was just a shepherd boy, but he obeyed his father, carrying milk and cheese to his brothers who were at war. Out of that simple, obedient act, a situation came about so that he killed a giant that no man would fight, and that defied the army of the living God. You too will have a great strength and power and be full of joy if you spend time with God and these qualities are yours.

Prayer:

“Lord, show me the qualities in my life that are lacking and show me how to obtain them.”

2 Peter 1:10

¹⁰ *Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:*

Day 39

The Secret to Joy

#1 – Look at what Christ did when everything was at its worst.

Try to picture in your mind the very first moments, as the cross lay on the ground in the dust. Sense the heat and the smell of death from the previously tortured. There were sounds of groans of two other men hanging beside Him and the mocking and cursing. As His hands lay outstretched, the nails were sitting there waiting the strike of a Roman soldier. Then all at once, there was the sound of tearing flesh and bone, and the ring of the hammer driving the nail through His flesh. Yet Jesus opened not His mouth – Isaiah 53:7. Keeping our mouths closed when everything is falling apart is the number one key to joy, while our minds are stayed on better things to come (Hebrews 12:1-2).

#2 – We must place value on everything and put it on the balance scales with joy as the only weight to offset it. Then and only then will we find whether it is worth what we are going to do. Bear this in mind: I am victorious (Romans 8:37; Philippians 3), God will never leave me nor forsake me (*Hebrews 13:5*), and once I commit my life to Him, He will never put me through more than I can handle (*1 Corinthians 10:13*). WOW – think on that!

When you take the Lord's yoke upon you and find rest for your soul (*Matthew 11:29*), and when you have kept the faith, fought a good fight and finished your course, then you will have entered into ultimate rest and rest is joy. Then Jesus will say, "...Well done, thou good and faithful servant...enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." (*Matthew 25:21*)

Prayer:

"Lord, I want you to know Your yoke and to fight a fight of faith with joy."

1 Peter 3:10

¹⁰ *For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile.*

Proverbs 21:23

²³ *Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.*

Day 40

The Great Equation

Unity + Joy = POWER

We must learn that joy cannot be second place in our lives. Joy is a place in God, through Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Ghost where we may live now. This happens when our surroundings or what people say or do will not affect our joy and we are always able to rise above the circumstances into the presence of God. This is when we enter behind the veil spoken of in the scriptures. Read *Hebrews 6:17-20; Psalm 9:9; Psalm 46*. This is our refuge.

This gives us great hope, and hope is the anchor for our souls. If hope is the anchor, then joy is the line that keeps us connected to the anchor when difficult times come, and they will. But we will know who God is and stand fast in His joy.

There are two things we must learn – Number one is to humble ourselves like a little child in our soul. Number two is to be mature at the same time, not whining and crying, but trusting God our circumstances, able to discern both good and evil, obtaining wisdom, knowledge and understanding.

Have you ever watched a child playing with his friends? He is not worried or frustrated about tomorrow, or the next hour for that matter. *Romans 1:20* says the invisible attributes (things that are true about God) of God are clearly seen by things that are made, so we are without excuse to know God. If we watch a child who is made in the image of God, we can see something true about God. We see that He is joy and He wants us to be joyful. Jesus said, "Unless you become like a little child, you cannot enter into the kingdom of God", (*Mark 10:15*). The kingdom is a place in God where we can live tranquil lives. We do not have to live frustrated, worried, or anxious, but mature, now full of love, peace and joy. Read *Romans 14:17*.

I believe Jesus, the creator of joyful children, wants us to be just like them. It is not until we get older and wiser that we lose our joy. Children do not have wisdom, knowledge or understanding; but most have joy.

David wrote in *Psalm 131:2* – "*Surely I have behaved and quieted myself, as a child that is weaned of his mother; my soul is even as a weaned child.*"

We need to learn to quiet ourselves down, especially when our environment is out of order. Be mature, full of wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. In *1 Corinthians 14:20* it says, Brethren, be not children in understanding; howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men."

The conclusion to everything that has been said is, there is a place in God that when you are like a little child and you are so full of joy, it spills over and spreads to others. We can then fulfill law of Jesus Christ because we will have the strength to help others in their life. Read *Galatians 6:2*.

Along the way, we need others in our life to encourage us as we see the day of the Lord's coming. This is called 'unity of the believers' and they can help us in our pursuit of joy, and war against Satan and his demons, whose mission is to steal our JOY. "Three cords are not easily broken and if one prevails against him, two shall withstand him; and three-fold cord is not quickly broken" – *Ecclesiastes 4:12*.

Prayer:

"Lord, help me be reminded daily that YOU are my refuge of joy, and I can trust You like a little child, but yet be mature."

Romans 16:19

¹⁹ For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil.

→ Read also:

Matthew 11:25

Matthew 18:3-4

Mark 10:15

Luke 18:17

1 Corinthians 3

Ephesians 4:14

Hebrews 5:12-24

God bless you on your journey of joy!

Day 41

The End of the Beginning

I wrote this book 24 years ago and this is the 2024 revised version.

God commanded us to go into all the world and make disciples. This new revised version of the book on joy should be used as a teaching tool for the Christian life, especially for new believers, because the joy of the Lord is your strength.

Without strength, it is hard to have faith; the second thing that Satan comes to do is kill your faith. Then Satan moves in, to help you live out a destroyed life. *John 10:10* paraphrased in my own words: Satan comes to steal your joy, kill your faith, and help you live out a destroyed life. Then he moves in to apply the same to your children.

I had no idea 24 years ago that God would speak to me and to show me the order of the Bible. Attached to this chapter are the 12 open doors to help you be an overcomer. Understanding the order of the scriptures is paramount to helping you understand where you are today with the creator of the universe and what is happening in the earth.

I spent 7 years on my deathbed. And I used the 12 open doors to heal myself with no medication. My book on healing is also available for you to expand your understanding for the reason for all of Christ's sufferings. Whatever died in Christ, will not live in you. If you have joy, you can have faith and have an abundant life using the 12 open doors to examine yourself often. It will allow you to be strong and allow others to be strong in all three dimensions spirit, soul, and body.

Now we are about to enter 2025. In the past 4 years, there has been so much death and destruction to mankind. It is critical to understand these things that I have written and have a conversation with the Creator while standing barefoot in the dirt each day.

I had no idea that I would make a video about dogs dying from vaccines and that would go viral. And through this, I would be led here one year later to be meeting three times a week and have people who would stick with me through the hard information I have given about the church, the government, and satanic ritual abuse. Never before in the history of my Christian life, through street ministry, prison ministry, jail ministry, and battling satanic and the dark kingdom, none have stayed with me and my family. It brings me great hope and joy to know that I have a team, the out of the Wild team, that wants to learn, wants to be disciplined, wants to grow, and wants to fight in this very dark time that we are in in the United States of America.

Thank you for praying for me, with me, and praying for others as we walk through this journey together, as each us are challenged to make 12 disciples and understand three dimensional healing before we go to the bone pile. You are warriors for the Lord and I am grateful that you are here. Now, let us not grow weary in doing good for we shall reap a reward - *Galatians 6:9, Romans 8:37-39*.

We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I want to give a special thanks to Sheila, who does all the revisions to my writings and rants. Any to all that are in the Out of the Wild group who are faithful to participating in this time. I'm dedicating this book to you, those you helped and those you will disciple!

All of these teachings are always free.
God bless you!

Out of the Wild Group (family)

Alison Epperson, Sheila Townes, Sally Chaffin, Jacquie Zaleski, Ken Skinner, Suzanne Fowler, Bob Knight, Chelby Lee, Chris Immenschuh, Christina Lucas, Cole Wiser, Delia Turner, Dennis Kasinak, Isabelle Sterlin, Jackie Marr, Jane Wilkinson, Jenny Cochran, Jodie Emery, Josephine Chrestman, Julie Mattos, Krista Witt, Lou Ann Wall, Marlene Villanueva, Marsha Wilkins, Nancy Johnson, Sandy Dunne, Sharon Ragan, Susan Brimer, Susan and Paul Haynes, Tracey Beecham, Julie Hammonds, Wendy B, Barb Battle, Barbara Carter, Beth Boothe, Cindy Pipkin, Dan Alamo, Dave Freyholtz, Debbie Passmore, Debra Japs, Diane Partridge, Gloria Jean Booth, Isaac Figuero, Jamie Ellis, Jeanne McKay, Jeremy Fleming, John Lawler, Kim Bednarski, Kimberly Larkins, Larry Rudin, Linda Muehlenfeld, Lori Leisinger, Marjorie Trammell, Martha Morrill, Mary Jo Moon, Mary Stanley, Matthew McQueen, Melanie Wendt, Monika Karr, Nina Harmon, Rochelle Schneider, Rocquel Bjoreboe, Ruth Geis, Sharman Peters, Terri Metzler, Valentina Silver, Windy Dukes, Alexa Freeburg, Peggy Calhoun, Dawn Schmitt, Cheryl Dadras, Shawn Reese, Ann Marie Blum, Paul Senick, Belinda Bailey, Lorna Thomas, Kathe Rush, Cindy Tipton, Mark Holden, Jean Leonesio, John Pelley, Joanne Ortiz, and Gina Foley

APPENDIX: The 12 Open Doors

Dear believer,

In the 28th chapter of Matthew, our Lord Jesus said we are to go into the world and make disciples. We must teach them to observe all that Jesus commands. Many of us do not have any trouble saying, “Yes, I’m a believer,” but, can you tell someone else what Jesus said you should do in any given situation of life? There’s been a great deal of pains to go and save people and make them a part of a certain brand of faith. These have been labeled denominations, which the definition is, “number and divide!”

The doctrine I am presenting to you is titled, “**The 12 Open Doors: Forbidden Territory For Believers.**” This teaching is designed to give any believer the foundation to work out in their own life on a daily basis and walk in a manner pleasing to the Lord. This teaching isn’t designed to make a bunch of rules of do’s and don’ts, and not be used as **legalism**. Legalism is rules without grace to achieve that Christ has finished! This teaching is to help you fight a good fight of faith and have and keep a clear conscience. It is designed to teach that:

1. The enemy is defeated
2. Sinful actions give the enemy ground in your life
3. This can turn into a stronghold, which is a lie that becomes true to you
4. You must insert God’s truth beside the stronghold until it takes the place of the stronghold
5. Learn to capture or frisk every thought coming and going in your mind

If you or any person is not willing to repent of any of these areas, there is not much you can do for them, but if they are willing, then walk slowly and help them see what God says in the particular area then help them receive God’s grace and mercy and Christ’s finished work for the most part. It is not an issue of our sins being forgiven, it is an issue of a clear conscience that blocks us from giving and receiving God’s power to overcome any particular area or situation.

Are you ready?

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. Bitterness | Hebrews 12:15 |
| 2. Pride | Proverbs 16:5 |
| 3. Rebellion | 1 Samuel 15:23 |
| 4. Temporal values | James 4 |
| 5. Immorality | 1 Corinthians 6:16-20 |
| 6. Generational iniquity | Exodus 20:5 |
| 7. Occult activities and manipulation | Deuteronomy 7:25-26 |
| 8. Negative thought patterns | Philippians 4:6-10 |
| 9. Love of money first | 1 Timothy 6:10 |
| 10. Naïve | Hosea 4:6 |
| 11. Sinful habits | Romans 12:1-2 |
| 12. Fear | 1 John 4:18 |

Paul wrote to Timothy to fight the good fight to keep the faith and a clear conscience, 1 Timothy 1: 18-20

Yours in Christ,
Steve Jarvis