

Joy Complete: Jesus, Others, You

Based on the Pool Church discussion on Joy

Theme Verse

"Make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and one mind."
— Philippians 2:2

S — Scripture

Primary Passage

Philippians 2:1-11

Focus especially on:

"Make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind." (Philippians 2:2)

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves." (Philippians 2:3)

"In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus."
(Philippians 2:5)

Supporting Scriptures

- Psalm 33:3
 - Proverbs 3:5-6
 - John 15:11
 - Acts 2:42-47
 - Romans 15:13
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O — Observation

During the Pool Church discussion, Jason and Rob talked about joy as something much deeper than happiness.

Happiness often depends on circumstances:

- Winning a match

- Getting a promotion
- Receiving good news
- Having everything go our way

But biblical joy is different.

Joy comes from Christ and remains even when circumstances are difficult.

Rob shared how joy remained present even through the loss of his wife. While grief was real, he discovered that God's presence remained constant. What appeared to be unanswered prayer was ultimately answered in a different way than expected.

A powerful illustration involved the sound of pool balls "chirping."

Even when nothing spectacular is happening on the table, the sound remains.

Likewise:

God's presence remains even when life is quiet.

The discussion also highlighted Pastor Mike's teaching:

The Correct Spelling of Joy

Many people live as though joy is spelled:

Y-O-U

It's all about:

- Me
- My desires
- My plans
- My success

But biblical joy is spelled:

J-O-Y

J = Jesus

O = Others

Y = You

When life is lived in that order, joy becomes complete.

Another observation was that joy grows through generosity.

Jason shared the story of his stepson giving away his first pool cue to a young player who needed one.

The joy did not come from possessing the cue.

The joy came from giving it away.

A — Application

1. Is My Joy Dependent on Circumstances?

Ask yourself:

- Am I joyful only when things go well?
- What happens to my attitude when life becomes difficult?

Write your thoughts:

Action Step

This week, thank God for three blessings every day—even on difficult days.

2. Am I Following the JOY Formula?

Evaluate your priorities.

Jesus

Am I spending time with Him daily?

Others

Am I looking for opportunities to serve?

You

Am I trusting God to care for my needs?

Write one area where your priorities may be out of order:

Action Step

Choose one practical way to put someone else's needs ahead of your own this week.

3. What Am I Holding Too Tightly?

The story of giving away the pool cue reminds us that possessions are tools, not treasures.

Ask yourself:

- Is there something I value more than God's purpose?
 - Am I willing to use my gifts and resources to bless others?
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Action Step

Give something away this week:

- Time
- Encouragement
- Money
- Knowledge
- A skill
- A possession

Watch how God uses it.

4. Trusting God's Path

The Gospel Trick Shot demonstrated a broken "JOY."

When Jason tried to complete it his own way, the shot failed.

Only when he surrendered the shot to God did the joy become complete.

Reflection

Where are you trying to force your own solution instead of trusting God's direction?

Action Step

Pray Proverbs 3:5-6 every day this week.

Pool Table Principle

The Chirps and Cracks of Life

Sometimes prayers are small.

A little chirp.

- Help me today, Lord.
- Give me wisdom.
- Help me love someone well.

Sometimes prayers are huge.

A loud crack.

- Cancer
- Loss
- Addiction
- Broken relationships
- Major life decisions

The good news is:

God hears both the chirps and the cracks.

No prayer is too small.

No burden is too big.

Discussion Questions

1. What is the difference between happiness and biblical joy?
 2. Why do you think joy grows when we serve others?
 3. Which part of the JOY formula (Jesus, Others, You) is most difficult for you?
 4. How has God brought joy into a difficult season of your life?
 5. What possessions, talents, or resources could God use through you to bless someone else?
 6. What "chirp" prayer and what "crack" prayer are you currently bringing to God?
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P — Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the gift of true joy.

Forgive me when I seek happiness apart from You or try to complete my life in my own strength. Teach me to put Jesus first, others second, and myself last.

Help me trust You in both the chirps and cracks of life. Give me a generous heart, a humble spirit, and a willingness to follow wherever You lead.

May Your joy remain in me and may my joy be made complete through Christ.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Weekly Challenge

Every morning this week pray:

"Lord, help me put Jesus first, others second, and myself last."

Then each evening ask:

1. How did I experience God's joy today?
2. How did I share joy with someone else?
3. Did I trust God with both my chirps and my cracks?

Memory Verse

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight."

— Proverbs 3:5-6

Bottom Line

Joy becomes complete when we stop trying to create it ourselves and allow Christ to fill, guide, and sustain us. 🕉️ 😊